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VOLUME LXVII, NUMBER 20179

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1999 • 23 ADAR 5759 • 23 THU AL-QADAH 1419

NIS 5.50 (EILAT NIS 5.50)

new section debuts **Fri** *Friday* *Jerusalem Post's* debuts tomorrow
The Jerusalem Post's new section debuts tomorrow

Barak doesn't expect apology from Hanegbi

By LIAT COLLINS and DANNA HARMAN

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak's apparent exoneration in the 1992 Tze'elim 2 training accident by the state comptroller continued to be handled about by politicians on the Left and Right yesterday.

Barak said he does not expect an apology from Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi for his accusation that, when chief of General Staff, he had abandoned injured soldiers following a training mishap that killed five soldiers. He also insisted Labor would not exploit the affair as part of its election campaign.

But neither Labor nor the Likud appear to have decided what role - if any - the affair will play in their campaigns in the long term.

President Ezer Weizman said that, although he had not read the report, he is "happy every time that someone is found not guilty... I was happy for [Barak]. I was happy for the IDF and I was happy that these things have come to light."

Opposition MKs demanded Hanegbi apologize for his Knesset plenum speech playing on Barak's name with the phrase "Ehud barak" (Ehud fled). They were joined by Finance Minister Meir Sheerit, who said Hanegbi should apologize if he had harmed Barak, while Labor should apologize for some of the things it has said in the past. Shas leader Aryeh Deri also called on Hanegbi to apologize, and if not, for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to make him do so.

See BARAK, Page 4

Splattering the mud

ANALYSIS

Remember John Jay Sullivan? He was supposed to be the alias used by CIA double-agent Binyamin Netanyahu. His cover was blown by two diligent *Yediot Aharanot* reporters, whose unsubstantiated findings were seized upon enthusiastically by Labor politicians, most prominently and bluntly by Dalia Itzik, who even carpishly raised the matter in the Knesset.

She never apologized, backtracked, or regretted anything. She never so much as even admitted on the record that Netanyahu is not an American spy.

Likewise, it is unrealistic to expect Tzahi Hanegbi to apologize for using a much less out-

landish *Yediot* expose on the 1992 Tze'elim 2 training accident in his railings from the Knesset podium. That is just not how things work in politics.

Self-righteous outrage and sanctimonious demands for apologies, however, are very much part of the political game. These are weapons to be wielded against the adversary. The much publicized, well orchestrated demands from one's rivals for atonement and mea culpas are not naive appeals to make nice, but are part of a deliberate political barrage.

Such volleys, though, can backfire big time, simply because there is no safe way to tell how mass psychology operates. The working assumption on both sides of the political divide should be that it functions in strange, unexpected ways.

See ANALYSIS, Page 4

PA Police kills 2 Gazans

Rioting sparked by death sentence

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and BEN LYNNFIELD

Two Palestinian teenagers were killed by Palestinian policemen during fierce clashes in the south Gaza Strip town of Rafah yesterday, after a Palestinian Authority security court sentenced a Hamas activist to death for the murder of a security officer.

The court sentenced Hamas activist and former security agent Raed Attar, 25, to death by firing squad, while Mohammed Abu Shamleh, 25, got life imprisonment with hard labor, and Osama Abu Taha, 24, received 15 years' hard labor for the murder of Preventive Security Service Col. Rifa' al Judeh on February 1.

The court said that the three, also wanted by Israel, are members of the Hamas military wing, Izzadin Kassam. Israel says they planned attacks in Israel and were responsible for the murder of IDF Lt. Guy Ovadia in Gaza five years ago.

As Attar was led out of the courtroom he called out, "This proves to all of you that there is no justice in Palestine."

Outside the courtroom members of Attar's family wept at the verdict and shouted "We want justice!" and "We will not allow this sentence to pass!" Family members marched to Judeh's home and threw stones and bottles. The angry crowd set fire to tires near police headquarters and threw stones and bottles.

There were reports that armed Hamas members were among the rioters. The incidents mostly involved members of the influential Judeh and Attar families serving in different security branches.

Mohammed Judeh, brother of the victim, said the family was pleased



Relatives of Raed Attar, sentenced to death by a Gaza security court yesterday for killing a police officer, protest shortly before riots exploded in Rafah, in which police killed two teenagers. (AP)

with the sentence, and issued a chilling warning to the Attars. "If they turn this into a clan vendetta, then we will be more than happy to make it into that."

The unrest forced Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to cut short his visit with Jordan's King Abdullah II in Amman and return to Gaza.

The two teenagers, Ala Hams, 17, and Hams Salameh, 18, were killed and at least 10 were wounded by live ammunition used by Palestinian police to disperse the rioters.

At a press conference in Gaza last

night, Palestinian Police Gen. Ghazi Jabali charged that IDF soldiers were responsible for the deaths of the two Palestinian teenagers and the wounding of six during the clashes. IDF sources denied the claims and said that no shots were fired by its troops in the area.

Hundreds of mourners carrying black flags accompanied Hams and Salameh, who was reportedly buried hours later. Last night police imposed a curfew in Rafah and set up roadblocks near the police station.

David Bar-Ilan, communications

adviser to the prime minister, said Attar and the two others were on a wanted list that Israel gave the PA after the July 1994 killing of Ovadia. "It was only when he killed a Palestinian officer that he was brought to trial and sentenced to death," Bar-Ilan said, adding "that is not a happy indication for us, that the murder of Jews is not cause for punishment, but for promotion."

It was not clear when the death sentence is to be carried out. Another death sentence handed down last month against a Palestinian colonel convicted of

child-rape was carried out within hours.

The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group called on Arafat not to uphold the death sentence, stating that the trial was unfair and the Palestinian Legislative Council has not yet approved a law that allows execution. Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin charged that the verdict was unfair. "I hope the president [Arafat] will make a just decision that will prevent a crisis," he said.

News agencies contributed to this report.

Suissa suspends Jerusalem Religious Council

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

In an apparent attempt to bypass the law that ensures the right of non-Orthodox members to sit on religious councils, Religious Affairs Minister Eli Suissa yesterday suspended the Jerusalem Religious Council and named its head as caretaker.

It is believed to be the first time ever that a religious council has been suspended.

Rabbi Avner Amur, senior adviser to Suissa, announced the latest development last night when he appeared, 25 minutes late, after the council failed to convene for the fourth consecutive time.

"As of this past Sunday, Rabbi Yitzhak Ralbag, head of the religious council, is appointed caretaker," Amur announced in Suissa's name. "He'll be unable to fire workers or to introduce new workers, but he'll be responsible

for the day to day functioning of the council, in everything connected to it. This order will stand until the members of the council convene of their own volition."

Amur did not explain why he sent invitations to the meeting to members of the council on Sunday, the same day Suissa issued his order suspending the council.

"We will not take this sitting down," said Rabbi Uri Regev, executive director of the Israeli Religious Action Center, who had complained to Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein that Suissa was not fulfilling his mandate under the law.

"We will challenge the legality of attempting to circumvent both the law and the court rulings, and prevent the participation of duly appointed members in the councils. We expect to obtain the official order that the minister signed, and upon receiving it, probably

within a day or two, we'll petition the High Court of Justice again. As much as we do not like to see that happening, as much as we do not like to drag the court into it again, I'm afraid that there may be no choice."

The law states that the minister has the authority to appoint someone if the council does not function in one specific matter, which is how Suissa is interpreting the situation. Secondly, the law says that if the council does not function altogether - the interpretation of the Conservative and Reform members of the council - then the minister must appoint an inquiry committee to investigate the state of the council. A member of the Attorney-General's Office must be appointed to that inquiry committee.

"This is an exercise in undermining their own laws," said Rabbi Naamah Kelman, the Reform member of the council. "Obviously they're hurting - monies aren't being allocated for salaries, so this will be a way to get the monies moving. But what we're saying is that it seems outrageous to us that Ralbag, who has actively and flagrantly gone against the law, against government - he should be the one appointed? This is once again a flagrant spitting in the face of democracy."

Rabbi Ehud Bandel, the Conservative member of the council, called the injunction "a disgrace" and said he was saddened by the turn of events. "Because I had hoped that we could meet and work together. I know that there are Orthodox members of this council who are upset about this thing, but unfortunately they surrendered to the pressure from an extreme minority. It's sad, because I think Jerusalem deserves better."



From left: Yitzhak Mordechai, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Dan Meridor, and Romi Milo celebrate the official launch of the Center Party last night in Tel Aviv. (Dan Ossendyver/Israel Sun)

Mordechai attacks Barak for first time

By DANNA HARMAN

With laser beams bouncing off the walls, a 2,000-strong crowd clapping to the snappy music, and blue, white, and green balloons falling from the ceiling, Yitzhak Mordechai, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, Dan Meridor, and Romi Milo officially launched the Center Party last night at the Tel Aviv Cinemas.

Mordechai attacked Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's policies and manner of leadership, and also, for the first time, frontally

attacked Labor Party leader Ehud Barak. "Barak cannot understand Israeli society the way I can, and cannot unite the people," he said. "He will not be able to talk with the Orthodox, or understand the Mizrahi mentality, or the Arab one. He will not be able to bring about unity," said Mordechai.

Mordechai, who promised that the formal party platform will be presented within 10 days and the party list within a week, gave a preview of the platform when he ran off a large list of principles the party has committed itself to.

In the diplomatic arena, Mordechai said the party would work to promote the peace process and implement the Wye agreement, as well as strengthen relations with Egypt and Jordan. He said he intends to call on Syria to return to the negotiating table, and call on

Lebanon to take on responsibility for security in south Lebanon.

"I suggest that we get the IDF out of Lebanon and transfer security responsibility to the Lebanese Army. I do not think we should try and find new tactical solutions to Lebanon, but rather go for a strategic decision which is the only way to change the situation," said Mordechai. He also said that Jerusalem would remain Israel's eternal, united capital.

Mordechai then touched upon a slew of social and economic issues, saying that he would work on narrowing gaps between the people - be they between secular and Orthodox, men and women, Sephardim and Ashkenazim, new immigrants and veteran citizens, Arabs and Jews.

See MORDECHAI, Page 3

Schools start late today as teachers protest stalled wage talks

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Classes are to begin two hours late today, at 10 a.m., as part of sanctions being taken by the Histadrut Teachers Union to press demands for a new wage agreement. The strike excludes 12th grade and special education classes.

Secondary School Teachers Association teachers will be working as usual, but the strike is still expected to affect most of the educational system.

"We cannot accept a situation in which a teacher in Israel with an academic degree earns NIS 3,700 gross in his third year of teaching," union secretary-general Avraham Ben-Shabbat said yesterday after an emergency meeting of union officials in Tel Aviv.

Ben-Shabbat said Treasury officials' accusations that the teachers are simply trying to exploit the elections for financial gain will not keep them from pressing their just demands, aimed at saving the educational system and improving teachers' standing.

"The teachers are the heart of the Israeli educational system. If we continue to insult them with low wages and ignore their warnings about overcrowded classrooms, the effect that cutbacks have had on educational achievements and the physical conditions of the schools, we will be abandoning our children," he added.

Union officials said they had tired of hearing Treasury officials belittle the problem.

Meanwhile, Secondary Schools

Teachers Association Chairman Ran Erez and his staff yesterday sent urgent telegrams to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy, and Finance Minister Meir Sheerit, calling on them to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the education system and the status of teachers in Israel.

In the telegram to Netanyahu, issued after a late-night gathering by Erez and his staff to discuss the stalled wage negotiations, Erez wrote that the future of the education system "is in the balance," and that "immediately with the resumption of negotiations on a new wage agreement for 1999, we became aware of the government representatives' lack of awareness and understanding regarding the impor-

tance of the educational system and its advancement.

"At this very time, when the public is required to make decisive decisions regarding the fate of the nation, we must all underscore the importance of education as being our top national priority... We don't plan on simply accepting the empty slogans being used by the various candidates who state the importance of education," Erez said. "We want specific plans and clear commitments to advance education and the status of teachers in Israel."

Besides the telegram, association members plan on sending faxes, letters, and making phone calls to candidates in the upcoming elections and confronting politicians on these issues during campaign appearances.

NEWS

in brief

Decision in Mossad agent trial expected today

The Tel Aviv District Court is expected to rule today in the trial of Yehuda Gil, a former Mossad agent suspected of submitting false reports on about Syria. Gil, who worked as a full-time Mossad agent from 1970 until 1989 and worked for the agency part-time after retiring until his arrest in November 1997, was charged with espionage, conveying information with the intent of harming state security, theft by a public servant, and fraudulently receiving money under aggravated circumstances.

Gil's lawyer Eitan Maoz said yesterday that he was optimistic about the outcome of the complicated case. *Heidi J. Gleit*

Abdullah urges Arafat to postpone declaration

Jordan's King Abdullah II urged Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Amman yesterday not to declare a state on May 4, an Arafat aide said. The king told Arafat "it would be preferable to delay the declaration," said Arafat's representative in Jordan. Omar Kharib, Arafat's spokesman, told a seminar in Jordan the Palestinians were assessing European and Arab advice that a May 4 proclamation would boost the Israeli Right in elections. He added that the Palestinians had promises of recognition from 114 countries. *AP*

Walker: US to press for peace after elections

The United States intends to move forward with the peace process "aggressively" after the May elections, US Ambassador to Israel Edward Walker said yesterday. Speaking at a meeting of the Israeli-Palestinian media forum in Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel, Walker said the US saw an opportunity after the elections to move ahead rapidly with the peace process and final-status negotiations. The ambassador said the US opposed a May 4 unilateral declaration of independence by the Palestinians because the peace process is predicated on mutuality, and a negotiated outcome of all final-status issues. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Arens to reorganize helicopter command

Defense Minister Moshe Arens has pushed through a reform of helicopter command in the Air Force and last night approved a proposal to form a chopper corps. The proposals, which were also accepted by the Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, would allow there to be a supreme commander pertaining to helicopter matters in the IAF. Arens has said he wants to see a better integration between helicopters and ground forces. The head of the helicopter corps would now be directly subordinate to the head of the Air Force instead of the head of the IAF air arm. The helicopter fleet commander will also set up a small staff which will deal with the changing chopper doctrine and training. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Police recommend charging Amman guard

Police yesterday recommended that a security officer who fatally wounded security guard Sorek Geffen in a shooting accident two weeks ago at the Israeli Embassy in Amman should be charged with negligent manslaughter. After completing their investigation, police handed their recommendations to the Jerusalem district prosecutor, who will decide whether to press charges. The shooting occurred while security guards conducted a training exercise at the embassy. The wounded Geffen was flown back to Israel, where he died in hospital. *Itim*

Nuclear material on flight to Israel lost

South Africa's Atomic Energy Corporation is reviewing security procedures after a container of radioactive material went missing at Johannesburg's airport, a spokeswoman said yesterday. The 89 kg container, which holds a medical isotope called molybdenum-99, was booked to be flown by German carrier Lufthansa Cargo to Israel but disappeared at the airport. An international search is going on to try to recover the container, lost on March 2 and believed to have been snatched by thieves who might have been unaware of its contents. The isotope, used for medical diagnosis, has no military applications and the radiation danger is slight, said AEC spokeswoman Lola Patrick. *Reuters*

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deeply mourn the passing of

HERMAN MERKIN ז"ל

a Director of our company and long-time friend of the IDB Group

and extend their sincere condolences to the family.

We mourn the passing of a Director of our Company

HERMAN MERKIN ז"ל

and extend sincere condolences to the family.

The Board of Directors and Management

Discount Investment Corporation Ltd.

US defense secretary arrives today

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

US Secretary of Defense William Cohen arrives today for a one-day visit as he winds up a sweep of the Middle East.

But his official reception will only be tomorrow morning at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, where he will be received by an honor guard. He is taking the unusual step of honoring the IDF's Home Front disaster team which participated in the rescue work following the terrorist bombing of the US embassy in Nairobi, Kenya.

Later Cohen and his entourage will hold a working meeting with

his Israeli counterpart Moshe Arens and top defense officials.

On the agenda is the funding for a third Arrow 2 anti-ballistic missile battery. During his last visit here Cohen said the United States would fund the third battery.

The two will also no doubt speak of the agreement to upgrade strategic and military cooperation between Israel and United States, as called for in a recently signed strategic memorandum. Arens will host Cohen at a semi-official dinner tonight.

Arens and Cohen were first acquainted while Arens was ambassador in Washington and

Cohen was a congressman. But this will be their first meeting in their present positions.

US officials said that Cohen is not expected to meet with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, nor with Labor Party leader Ehud Barak or former defense minister and Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai, with whom he developed warm relations over the past two years, so as not to appear to be getting involved with internal Israeli politics.

Cohen comes to Israel from Egypt, where he arrived from Jordan yesterday. He is scheduled to hold talks with Egyptian

President Hosni Mubarak this morning, before flying to Israel.

Yesterday he met with Jordan's King Abdullah II for 90 minutes at Amman's Raghadan Palace. After lunch, Cohen laid a wreath at the grave of King Hussein, who died February 7.

On aid to Jordan, Cohen said the United States is moving forward with an economic package of some \$300 million. A senior US defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said roughly two thirds - some \$220 million - of the package would go toward Jordan's armed forces.

Earlier yesterday, Cohen held

talks in Kuwait with defense officials and the emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah. The defense secretary agreed to help Gulf states erect a shared early warning system that would warn them about missiles fired from Iraq or Iran.

Cohen told reporters in Amman that the US firmly believes that "the Iraqi people will not enjoy the benefits and fruits of peace and prosperity until such time when there is a change in regime."

"It's up to each country to express its own opinion about that," he added.

News agencies contributed to this report

Congress to oppose unilateral PA state

By HILLEL KUTTNER

WASHINGTON - The House and Senate are poised to pass resolutions calling on President Bill Clinton to oppose a unilateral declaration of statehood by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Ninety-five of the 100 Senators are prepared to approve the measure, while more than 250 of the 435 members of the House of Representatives have signed on as co-sponsors.

The House international relations committee was scheduled to consider the resolution late yesterday, with the full House voting on it next week. The Senate is likely to vote today.

The resolution, which is not binding, expresses Congress's opposition to a possible statehood declaration and urges Clinton "to continue to assert clearly US opposition to such a unilateral declaration of statehood."

That portion was amended in a meeting yesterday at the request of Democratic Senator Gary Ackerman after committee members were persuaded that Clinton has been speaking out against a statehood declaration, congressional sources stated. The original language called on Clinton "to assert clearly" his opposition.

But the originator of the resolution, Matt Salmon, is said to be fuming over the behavior of a fellow Republican, Tom Campbell, for raising a procedural motion to block the committee's passage of the resolution yesterday morning.

During the deliberations, Campbell - whom a Salmon aide later termed "probably Yasser Arafat's number-one fan in the US Congress" - urged that the resolution be delayed until after the Israeli election out of a concern that its passage would help Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

The Salmon aide said that, on the contrary, it is Arafat's declaring a state that could assist Netanyahu in the election.

Campbell's effort was defeated. But when the resolution came to a vote, Campbell invoked a quorum call, and since one member was not present the vote could not take place.

"To resort to such procedural gimmicks is atrocious," Salmon's aide said. "It's an inappropriate way to deal with this. Tom Campbell made his case - a pathetic case - that I don't think was accepted by any of his colleagues." Campbell was unavailable for comment.



President Ezer Weizman (left) shakes hands yesterday with Salah Bassiouny, president of the Egyptian Peace Movement, as former Foreign Ministry director-general David Kimche looks on. The Beit Hanassi meeting was organized by the Israel Council on Foreign Relations. (Isaac Harari)

Egypt, Israel differ on depth of peace

By BEN LYNNFIELD

Twenty years after making peace, Egypt and Israel are using different thermometers to gauge the temperature of their relations.

This became apparent during a gathering yesterday at Beit Hanassi organized by the Israel Council on Foreign Relations, when two Egyptian speakers, Salah Bassiouny, president of the Egyptian Peace Movement and Abd el-Moneem Said, director of Al-Ahram Institute for Strategic Studies, sought to expunge the term "cold peace" from the Egyptian-Israeli vocabulary.

But the Israeli speakers, President Ezer Weizman and former ambassador to Egypt Shimon Shamir, said relations could definitely be warmer than they are.

The temperature difference reflects the mixed feelings about the peace treaty on both sides. On the one hand, there is satisfaction that it has held its own through trials and crises. But Egypt's hopes for a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace have gone unrealized, while Israel's aspirations for a broad fabric of relations with Cairo now appear beyond reach, if not conception.

Bassiouny, a former ambassador to the Soviet

Union, said that while the term cold peace is used commonly, it is inaccurate. "If you look deeper you will find that relations between Egypt and Israel are much more normal than the relations of Egypt with many of the countries with whom we have diplomatic relations."

In a bid to rebut criticism that Egypt is not doing its best to promote intercultural relations, Bassiouny said: "Are you [Israelis] really going ahead among your public opinion to solve the Palestinian question? Do you accept intercultural exchange between you and your Arab neighbors?" In Said's view, relations during the 1980s were marred by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Taba dispute, and the intifada, but "warmed up beyond all the known standards of the Middle East" after the Madrid Conference was held in 1991.

From 1991-96, Egyptian-Israeli trade accounted for 8-10 percent of total Egyptian trade, he said. In 1995, 30,000 Egyptians visited Israel, the largest number of visitors to any Middle East country other than for work or pilgrimage, he added. To buttress his argument, he also cited statistics showing that in 1996 there were 1,039 instances of Egyptian-Israeli mixed marriages, more than with any other country in the region.

Shamir noted that the treaty has been very successful in keeping peace between the two countries, but, he said, the relationship is actually "more problematic" than Bassiouny and Said indicated.

"In the area of cooperative relations, which is the essence of peace building, much more could have been done for the benefit of both sides: more joint ventures, more trade, more economic cooperation," Shamir said.

"Yes we have learned much about each other, but after 20 years of peace there is still too much hostile speech and loud voices that speak in Egypt about Israel in a language that is not congruent with commitment to peace," Shamir said. Israeli youth also need to be made more aware of the importance of peace, he added.

Weizman, who has been involved in Egyptian-Israeli relations since president Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977, blamed the "cold peace" on the absence of a resolution of the Palestinian issue.

"If there is a bit of a cold peace - and I think it's not as warm as it should be - it is because the Palestinian problem has not yet been solved," he said. "I'm sure it will be, and the relationship with Egypt will be back at what it should be."

Activists protest anti-Arab practices in West Bank, J'lem

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Israelis must oppose the "perpetuation of the occupation" by helping to rebuild Palestinian homes demolished by the IDF and replant trees uprooted by settlers, the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions said yesterday.

At a press conference in Jerusalem's Beit Agnon the organizers said Israelis must also oppose new bypass roads which break up the West Bank into isolated enclaves.

The movements that make up the committee include Rabbis for Human Rights, Gush Shalom, Bat Shalom, The Alternative Information Center and student bodies from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University.

A structure of occupation, displacement and apartheid has been systematically imposed on Palestinians to ensure Israeli control,

the committee's reports said, adding that tens of thousands of domains of agricultural land had been confiscated by Israeli authorities.

Civil Administration spokesman Lt. Peter Lerner said all land was expropriated for public use, mostly for new roads to serve both Palestinians and Israelis. The landowners receive compensation upon proof of ownership, he said.

This is, sometimes, true, said Rabbi Arif Ascherman of Rabbis for Human Rights, "but there are many cases where land is confiscated for 'security reasons' and roads are built where others are close by."

Since 1967, the committee claimed some 6,000 West Bank and Jerusalem Arab homes have been demolished. Lerner confirmed 1,300 illegally built Palestinian homes demolished since 1990.

Jerusalem Municipality spokesman Hagai Elias said that in the last five years the municipality has issued 205 demolition orders of Arab homes but demolished only 56. In contrast 97 demolition orders were issued in predominantly Jewish west Jerusalem and 47 were implemented. Elias said illegal structures are demolished only where no permit can be given such as in green areas, public areas and areas in close proximity to roads and highways.

He stressed that over several years the municipality has poured some NIS 200 million shekels into infrastructure work in Arab areas of the city.

Meanwhile, near the A-Ram checkpoint in north Jerusalem, women from Hadasah, the Arab-Jewish party, and from the Palestinian Workers' Society protested discrimination against Palestinian women. They said that during closures "last year, two Palestinian women - in labor - and seven babies died because they were prevented from entering Israel."

We deeply grieve the passing of our dear friend

HERMAN MERKIN ז"ל

and extend our heartfelt condolences to Ulla and all the family

Dina and Raphael Recanati and the Recanati families

With profound sorrow and grief we announce the death after a severe illness of our beloved wife, mother and grandmother

MARCIA AMINOV ז"ל

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, March 11, 1999 (23 Adar 5759) at 2 p.m. at the Sde Yehoshua Cemetery (Kfar Samir), Haifa.

The funeral will depart from the Brosh gate.

The Bereaved Family

Shiva at the home of the deceased.

With deep sorrow and utter sadness we announce the passing in the fullness of age of

RUTH (Meme) WEIL ז"ל

Mourning by: Henry and Lili Weil, Myriam and Jacques Salomon, Daniel and Daniela Weil, Evelyn and Micky Schimmel. Her brother, sister, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Shiva at the Weil residence, 34 Rehov Alfasi, Jerusalem.

To Henry Weil and family

Heartfelt condolences on the loss of your mother

RUTH WEIL ז"ל

המקום ינחם אתכם

The Management and Staff of Koffolk (1949) Ltd.

The Ezra Association, Jerusalem, regrets to announce the passing of its beloved Life President

RUTH WEIL

Ovadia Yosef, son, get court summons

By LIAT COLLINS

Less than a week before the verdict in Shas' Party leader Aryeh Deri's corruption trial, Shas spiritual leader, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef and his son, David, have received a summons to appear in Jerusalem District Court in May over their comments against the judiciary.

They have been asked to give evidence regarding the complaint filed against them by the Movement for Quality Government for their attacks on the High Court. Shas activists yesterday claimed that this is another form of persecution against Shas leaders, an accusation denied by the movement. The Attorney-General's Office has closed its own file on the case.

Apparently, the summons had

been held up by the court workers' strike.

Shas MK Yitzhak Cohen said "there is no way" that Yosef will answer the summons. "We're talking about one of the greatest rabbis of the generation," he said.

"There is perhaps a satanic mind behind this," Cohen said. "The summons did not come on behalf of the State Attorney's Office but from those people who for some reason are upset that there aren't any riots. They tried to create an atmosphere for riots in the demonstration of hundreds of thousands and were disappointed. They tried to create an atmosphere for riots in advance of [Deri's] verdict and are disappointed. They keep going up a notch in the hope that something will happen and there will be civil

war. Why does the public not stand up against this?"

He said he did not know who was behind what he described as attempts to inflame the public, but said the police should investigate the phenomena.

Tel Aviv police yesterday said they would investigate Cohen's complaint against Non-Stop Radio broadcaster Natan Zahavi following his comments on air in which he called on listeners to "imagine" him saying, "Who are Ovadia Yosef and this thief Aryeh Deri... the dogs and sons of bitches. They should be killed. Exterminated."

Cohen said these comments were worse than the ones against Meretz leader Yossi Sarid by Yisrael Bopdak, who broadcast on a Shas-affiliated pirate station in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, Deri yesterday congratulated Labor Party leader Ehud Barak on being cleared in the State Comptroller's Report into the Tze'elim 2 accident. He also criticized Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi for his Knesset plenum speech playing on Barak's name with the phrase "Ehud barak" (Ehud fled) accusing the former chief of General Staff of abandoning the injured in the incident.

"If he has an ounce of integrity he should stand up - the sooner the better - and say, 'I made a mistake. I'm sorry. There's nothing shameful in that. If Tzahi Hanegbi doesn't apologize, then the prime minister as the Likud leader and premier is obliged to make him apologize,'" Deri said in an Israel Radio interview.

He called on the Likud to drop its reported plans for a campaign to use the "Barak fled" motif, and said Hanegbi's accusation was "the character assassination of a man who gave 30 years of his life to the country."

Deri said he would continue, however, to criticize Barak over other issues.

"There are enough things you can attack Barak about. And I'm sure the Likud will find others."

"We have ideological differences," Deri said. "But there are red lines which cannot be crossed: character assassination, libel, personal slurs not related to ideology."

In a thinly veiled reference to his own trial, he warned against believing every newspaper report.

ELECTION

notebook

Right-wing nationalist bloc may be finalized soon

Going into the final stretch toward unity in the right-wing nationalist bloc, settlement leader Aharon Domb shuttled yesterday among the sides in an attempt to end the impasse and pave the way for a deal. Unity talks were suspended early Tuesday morning after the sides became entrenched in their positions. The difficulties were apparently due to disagreement between Moledet leader MK Rehavam Ze'evi and Herut's No. 2 MK Michael Kleiner. Ze'evi is still apparently demanding concessions in exchange for what the party said is his "major concession" in agreeing to let Herut's MK Ze'ev (Benny) Begin have the No. 1 slot on the joint list. Tekuma leader Uri Ariel said yesterday that he was optimistic and hoped a deal could be closed by the weekend. Moledet's MK Benny Elon also said there were only small details left to iron out. Ze'evi is apparently seeking to make sure Elon gets a high position on the list. *Nina Gilbert and Elli Wohlgelegen*

Shulamit Aloni founds pro-Meretz group

Almost three years after she retired from politics, former Meretz leader Shulamit Aloni is back - at the head of a new group called Citizen Supporters of Meretz.

"I want to build a society based on law and justice. The only party that will fight for this is Meretz," Aloni declared yesterday during a press conference in Tel Aviv to announce the new group, which she will be leading along with author Amos Oz, former Arts and Culture Administration head Yossi Frost and actress Irina Selezneva. She added: "All the sensible people in this country should support Meretz."

Aloni also came out strongly against the hard attacks on the court system, reading passages from the Torah and from Rashi that say judges and their decisions must be honored. The group plans to organize parlor meetings and larger events and put out ads supporting Meretz. Aloni, who often had bitter disputes with her successor as party head, MK Yossi Sarid, said that she had not discussed the decision with him. However, the group was formed with Meretz's support and Sarid released a statement yesterday saying he is "very satisfied" that Aloni and Oz are heading the group. "[They] are people of great importance to Meretz and to the Israeli Left in general and their contribution is unique and crucial," he said.

Meretz must concentrate on defeating Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, he added, and not look backward. Oz said yesterday that heading the group is not a step toward ending politics, though Aloni said she would support him were he to head the party.

"If the novelists go into politics, the politicians might start writing novels," he responded. *Heidi J. Glick*

Barak, Levy go a-wooing for One Israel

By DANNA HARMAN

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak and his newfound partner, Geshet leader David Levy, hit the road together yesterday, riding into Yokne'am, Migdal Ha'emek, and Afula with a convoy of flag-decked minibuses to spread the word of their One Israel coalition.

The main reaction the duo seemed to elicit in these traditional Likud strongholds was curiosity. There was some real enthusiasm, but "of the imported sort," as one detractor put it, looking at a group of cheering out-of-town activists.

There was also some aversion, but Barak, surrounded by the activists, proudly pointed out it was "pretty weak." And so, as Barak and Levy linked arms and joked about their blossoming "romance," most locals did nothing more than raise an eyebrow or cock an ear.

One or two expressed surprise at the sight of the happy couple, but most consoled themselves with the thought that, as former Likud supporter Mario Ben-Lulu put it, "this is a mad country filled with real political animals in which the notion of strange bedfellows has obviously taken on a whole new meaning."

Yokne'am's popular council head, Simon Alfasi, in contrast, said he sees much more to the One Israel union than political expediency. "This is Barak's way to take his request for forgiveness from the [Sephardim] one step further," said Alfasi during a late morning break at a local community center.

"We all waited for the day in which Barak, who cares so much about social equality, would join forces with Levy, a true champion of social causes. And here, together with Shlomo Ben-Ami, you have a winning, caring team that will be able not only to understand the problems in this country but to conquer them."

What with all the broad smiles and mutual pats on the back, however, Levy was quick to remind those he met along the way that he was not actually joining Labor.

At the Soltam factory in Yokne'am he was approached by



Geshet leader David Levy (right) greets a supporter as he and Labor Party leader Ehud Barak (center) campaign for One Israel in Migdal Ha'emek yesterday. (Yael Somekh/Israel Sun)

metal worker Hanoh Malis. "Welcome back to your political home," said Malis happily, pulling out his Labor Party membership card as a sign of brotherhood. "God forbid," replied Levy shaking his finger and speaking in grave tones. "I have not joined the Labor Party, only One Israel."

Not everyone saw the difference. In Migdal Ha'emek, as Levy, Barak, and Mayor Eli Barda held court in the town hall, a group of malcontents sat at a shady cafe nearby sipping bitter black coffee and explaining the logic of their political world.

"Levy grew up in the Likud, and while we could follow him out of

the Likud we can only go so far. And Labor is far too far," said Shlomo Lizmi, a former Levy supporter.

Another Levy disapprover, Ze'ev Malha, took a deep drag on his cigarette and added that, "when your father teaches you that one plus one equals two, no one is going to convince you that it equals three. We are for the Likud, and what Levy is trying to hoodwink us, and confuse all logic, tell us that one plus one is three. But we are not idiots."

"Are you men here from the bride's side, or the groom's?" asked Likud activist Meir Peretz, sauntering up to the cafe group.

"Neither," replied Lizmi and Malha in unison. "We just came to see how exactly these fools are going to try and talk their way out of this betrayal."

Barak was unperturbed by the remarks coming from the sidelines. "I have a secret for you all," he told reporters sarcastically. "There will be some people in Migdal Ha'emek who will vote for [Prime Minister] Benjamin Netanyahu... But that is not the point. The point is that there is a different feeling brewing in the country."

"When I travelled here with [former prime minister Yitzhak] Rabin several years ago, we felt like we

really had no one to talk to. But now it is different. The Likud supporters have lost their passion, their pride. It is almost as if they are saying: 'come, change my mind.'"

Labor MK Rafi Elul, who joined yesterday's tour, further explained the strategic thinking behind the joint tour: "This election is a game of a percent or two," he said.

"That is all we need to get to create our revolution. It will be very significant in the first round and crucial in the second. That is what we are out for. And some people, if only a few, are really going to be affected by this new union."

MORDECHAI

Continued from Page 1

He talked about the need for the creation of a constitution, stressed the importance of free education for children, voiced support for student loans, and promised to strengthen youth movements.

Mordechai said he would help development towns, make new immigrants feel more welcome, create affordable public housing projects, improve environmental quality, support the elderly, and make life easier for the handicapped.

If Mordechai seemed to touch upon almost every worthy cause in his speech, he also welcomed every possible group to the party. First, he - like the other speakers - made sure to mention Moslems, Christians, Druse, and Circassians in his welcome. Then, he evoked religious themes, and, at one point slapped on a kippa and made a blessing.

"After 2,000 years we have built the national home, the Third Commonwealth, and supporters will come from all corners of the world to partake in it," said Mordechai. He said that if he were called upon to create the next government, he would call for national unity with both Likud and Labor. "We will call for broad coalition

which will represent all the people of this country," he said.

Shahak, who opened the evening, called it "a historical happening," and said the party is "offering a new future for this country."

"This is a new way, a newly paved path on which we can march into the next century," said Shahak, who spoke forcefully of the need to elect a responsible and trustworthy leadership.

"We who define ourselves as the center are the only ones who can lead. We are a party made up of a variety of people, and what unites us is our interest in listening to the people, and really representing this country," said Shahak.

Besides Mordechai and Shahak, the other speakers at the event were Meridor, Milo - who lambasted Channel 1 for "bowing to political pressure and failing to broadcast the event live" - Dalia Rabin-Peloss and Nehama Ronen.

In addition, four new Center Party recruits - an Ethiopian, a disabled veteran, a woman, and an Arab also got up to voice their support for the party. Along with the speeches and laser shows, the crowd was also treated to a video display featuring Mordechai meeting with world leaders, playing with his infant son Yovel, visiting soldiers in the field and hospitals, and consoling bereaved families.

Lieberman shops for support in Mahaneh Yehuda

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN



Yisrael Beiteinu head Avigdor Lieberman samples the wares of Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market on the campaign trail yesterday. (Ariel Jerzolimski/The Jerusalem Post)

Following in the footsteps of his former boss Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Yisrael Beiteinu leader Avigdor Lieberman yesterday walked "Likud Lane," otherwise known as the main shopping streets of Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market, in search of votes, fresh green peas, and the kind of reception enjoyed by Netanyahu on his market visits.

He never found the peas, but Lieberman came away with warm if not overwhelming support from the stall owners, a free felfel and other goodies, and reminders from the vendors that he should make coalition agreements "only with Bibi."

Lieberman's link with Netanyahu was underscored by almost identical posters pasted around the market showing the two striking virtually the same pose: alongside a flag of Israel, Netanyahu looking left, Lieberman to the right.

Shaking hands with passersby, Lieberman worked his way down the covered Rehov Etz Haim

street, accompanied by several leading members of the party. Asked if he'd come to steal votes from the Likud and Netanyahu, he said: "I've come to represent my party and I also plan to strengthen the prime minister. I don't hide the fact that we will support Netanyahu for prime minister, and I think that for Netanyahu to be strong, you need a strong Yisrael Beiteinu and a strong Yvette." He predicted his party would "not get any less than eight or nine seats."

Lieberman refused to divulge just who would be where on his party's list. "We've said all along that we will only reveal this beginning on March 15 or 16," he said. He insisted that the ethnic background of potential candidates would not influence their position on the list. "Anyone who's good will be on the list," he said.

Asked about the State Comptroller's report on the Tze'elim 2 incident, Lieberman - cleared earlier this week of charges pending against himself - said: "I've only heard what's been on the radio, so it would be irresponsible to respond to what's

been leaked so far. But I congratulate anyone who has been found innocent. People have to understand that even politicians are people before they are politicians."

Lieberman said Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi "doesn't need my advice" regarding whether to apologize to Barak or not. "He's a senior minister, and he'll know what to do."

Commenting on the upcoming verdict in the trial of Shas leader Aryeh Deri, Lieberman said: "I hope and pray with all my heart that Aryeh will emerge innocent. I want everyone to remember: Aryeh Deri is the nicest person in

Israeli politics," he said.

Walking past posters featuring his picture and the slogan: "His word is his word," Lieberman, without his usual tie and jacket, stressed the "strong Lieberman equals strong Bibi" message during his tour, one that sold almost as well as the spring watermelons being snatched off one counter where he stopped.

"I've been coming here for 20 years, Lieberman, former director-general of Netanyahu's office, said just before biting into a slice of the red stuff.

While many stall owners took time out to shake his hand, or to urge him to "be strong, be strong,"

most of the shouts of "Lieberman! Lieberman!" came from his own campaign staff as they walked with him. The mass support Netanyahu drew on his visit was lacking.

Indeed, Eliezer, a vegetable dealer at the entrance to the Agrippas side of the shuk, said: "I'm not excited by him. He looks like a bootlegger to me. He says what others are forbidden to say. But I'm disappointed with all of them." A baker on Rehov Mahaneh Yehuda said Lieberman "is out in my eyes. Anyone who talks that way about the political system and the police shouldn't be allowed to lead a party."

ON THE RECORD

I was happy for Ehud [Barak], I was happy for the IDF, and I was happy that these things have come to light - President Ezer Weizman on the Tze'elim 2 report, in reference to the Labor Party leader

I have not joined the Labor Party, only One Israel - Geshet leader David Levy, during a tour of Migdal Ha'emek with Barak yesterday

Aryeh Deri is the nicest person in Israeli politics - Yisrael Beiteinu leader Avigdor Lieberman

Barak cannot understand Israeli society the way I can, and cannot unite the people - Center Party leader Yitzhak Mordechai

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Sharansky, Uzbekistan FM to boost ties through joint US appearances

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - In a highly unusual move, ministers of Israel and Uzbekistan are to hold joint appearances when they come to Washington next week.

The visit of Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky and Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Karimov is believed to be the first of its kind since prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein came here in July 1994 to sign the Washington Declaration and address both houses of Congress. Arab and Israeli leaders have since come here for summits and to sign agreements, but have not embarked on a joint advocacy campaign.

The ministers will hold discussions next Monday and Tuesday with House International Relations Committee chairman Benjamin Gilman, Senate Near Eastern and South Asian Subcommittee chairman Sam Brownback and Senate International Economic Policy Subcommittee chairman Chuck Hagel. They were still trying to finalize meetings with National Security Advisor Sandy Berger and Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Martin Indyk, among other administration officials.

Sharansky and Karimov will also address representatives of several Jewish organizations. They were hoping to brief the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, but the think tank decided against it and will hear from only Sharansky.

The joint appearances are an outgrowth of President Islam Karimov's visit to Israel last autumn. During a meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Karimov sought Israel's help in strengthening ties with Washington, and Netanyahu agreed on the spot, appointing Sharansky, who also participated in the session, to facilitate the approach.

Next week's events "contribute to our relations with Uzbekistan," Shmuel Merom, director of the Foreign Ministry's Department of the Commonwealth of Independent States, said yesterday.

"If we help others, it helps us. What they want is to open doors in the US... and assist us [improving] their image," he added.

Israeli officials believe that one motivation for Uzbekistan's request is its desire to counteract US criticism of its alleged human rights violations.

Israel has in the past advocated to the US on behalf of others in the region. Notable

countries include Jordan, Egypt, and Azerbaijan, as well as helping the Palestinians. Asked whether next week's events might encourage other countries to capitalize on Israel's close ties with the US, Merom said: "They'll see Israel as a springboard to the US whether we want it or not."

Israeli and Uzbek officials describe the joint meetings as an effort to boost their relationship, and draw American involvement in combating drug trafficking, Islamic fundamentalism, and the spread of missiles and other weapons throughout Central Asia and Iran.

Uzbekistan sees "a real threat" emanating from Islamic fundamentalists in Afghanistan and Tajikistan, "and there's been a perception by some in the Uzbekistan government that Israel could help them directly, with advice and with bringing this concern to the West," said the Washington Institute's Patrick Clawson, an expert on the region.

"I can smell collaboration on this pretty fast. It complements the US's interest and involvement," he added.

Israel and Uzbekistan already cooperate on some issues of mutual concern. Israel has hosted courses for Uzbek officials seeking to fight the spread of drugs from Afghanistan

and Tajikistan, and plans to send its own experts to Uzbekistan soon, Merom said.

Anti-terrorism cooperation is "still on paper," but the two sides intend to work together there, he said. Israel's Mashav program has already helped establish modern dairies in Uzbekistan, and the two countries already conduct joint medical training and exchange programs.

While Uzbekistan and the US do not work together on security matters, Sharansky and other Israeli officials can help change that, and "open the door for discussions," said Yusup Magdiev, a first secretary of the Uzbek Embassy here. And while Uzbekistan is fighting drug trafficking with both Israeli and American assistance, the three countries are not involved in a coordinated effort, something that Magdiev believes can be rectified.

Tashkent already cooperates with Washington to prevent weapons proliferation, and is very concerned over Iran's nuclear program, because "if it is successful, it will be our problem" as well as Israel's, Magdiev said. "We don't want to have an Iranian Chernobyl in the region," he said.

"It's a start," he said of the new effort. "It's a new step, a new page, in our relations."

Turkish MP: Our ties not based on hostility to others

By LIAT COLLINS

The growing friendship between Israel and Turkey is not aimed against any other country, said both Hikmet Cetin, Speaker of the Turkish Parliament, and his Israeli counterpart Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon, when the two met in the Knesset yesterday. Cetin, a former foreign minister, is here on an official visit.

Both stressed that the friendship between the two countries is not meant as a threat to other countries including Greece or the Arab countries, which Cetin described as "our friends and both."

Cetin's visit, his third, is seen as another sign of the improving relations between Israel and Turkey and the two countries have signed on several agreements in recent years including in the military fields.

Cetin noted that Israel and Turkey use the same types of western and US weapons and technology. He deflected a question on whether the intelligence services of the two countries are cooperating. "This is not my job or area," he said. "But you need not exaggerate this."

Tichon said that the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committees of the two parliaments are expect-

ed to hold exchange visits in the future.

"It is important to emphasize that the good relations which are developing are not aimed at any third country and there is a third country which is very worried by the relations," said Tichon. He noted he had just returned from an inter-parliamentary conference in Majorca where he spoke to his Greek counterpart and had clarified Israel's stand.

The issue assumed added impetus after Kurdish leader Abdullah Ocalan was captured by Turkish forces during a mission in Kenya where Ocalan had sought refuge with the Greek Embassy. Cetin said that Ocalan would receive a fair trial and that Turkey is democratic.

Regarding the possibility raised in the Turkish and foreign press that Israel has been in touch with the PKK Kurdish rebel movement, Cetin said he does not believe Israel would hold talks with the movement because Israel knows what terrorism is.

"For that reason, we do not believe that any government or circle in Israel will try to have any kind of contact with PKK terrorism which was responsible for more than 30,000 deaths in our country," he said.

Matza, gov't doctors repudiate 'Bangladesh' overcrowding charges

By JUDY SEGEL

The directors of all public hospitals last night issued a statement via the Health Ministry spokesman after Health Minister Yehoshua Matza convened them in anger over a senior physician's remark that the country's internal medicine departments "look like a refugee camp in Bangladesh."

Prof. Moshe Garti - chairman of the Israel Internal Medicine Society and head of the Recanati Center for Internal Medicine at the Rabin Medical Center-Bellinson Campus - made this simile in an article published in *Ma'ariv* yesterday.

Garti, who spoke on Tuesday before an emergency meeting of internal medical specialists at Kfar Hamaccabiah, was quoted by *Ma'ariv* as saying that the overcrowding of elderly, seriously ill patients look like a refugee camp, because beds are near the toilets and in cafeterias, wards are severely understaffed, and patients have been deprived of their privacy.

He said that, because beds are so close to each other, patients are likelier to become infected and the mortality rate increases.

But ministry officials said there are no statistics to show an increase in internal-medicine department mortality and claimed that Garti had exaggerated. Garti said last night that using the word "Bangladesh" may not have been suitable.

Last Thursday, Garti sent a letter to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Matza - to which, Garti said, neither had responded by yesterday - in the names of the heads of all 93 internal medicine departments in the country.

The letter warned that, because an agreement signed two years ago by the Finance and Health ministries to add 1,200 beds to internal medicine departments "has not been funded or implemented, patients' lives are endangered. The problem isn't the winter, but the collapse and insufficiency of the system."

Prof. Moshe Revah, director of Haifa's Rambam Hospital, Prof. Ya'acov Hart, director of Hasharon Hospital in Petah Tikva, Prof. Jonathan Halevy, director of Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital, and three other hospital directors immediately composed a statement repudiating Garti's remarks.

"It was brought to our attention that a serious expression was sounded in the media comparing the Israeli health system to that of Bangladesh's and referring to a significant increase in mortality rates due to hospital crowding. The hospital directors reject this comparison, which has no place or justification," the statement said.

"We know that in recent years, efforts to reduce this crowding have been made by the Health Ministry headed by Minister Yehoshua Matza. But due to stubborn refusal by the Treasury,

many of these demands have not been met and others have not been implemented. We thank the health minister for his efforts so far and appeal to him to make every effort to present to the government even in this sensitive period the difficulties in the system said to continue to make every needed effort to reduce the distress in the hospitals."

Hart admitted that in their two-hour meeting with Matza, the minister "did not make any proposals to relieve the congestion in the internal medicine departments," but said Matza was "very upset by the headlines quoting Prof. Garti."

He denied, however, that Matza - whose ministry controls and supervises hospital allocations, functioning, and development - asked the hospital directors to write a press statement.

By comparison, the Israel Medical Association - a professional organization not dependent on the ministry - issued a very different press release of their own yesterday.

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar wrote that "it's true that the situation is extremely serious."

However, Blachar continued, "We examined the matter and found that allocations have not been fully expressed in internal medicine departments, and that some of the money was used for other purposes by hospital directors according to their own considerations."

The IMA did not criticize Garti or refer to the *Ma'ariv* article. On *Israel Radio* yesterday morning, Matza criticized the internal medicine department heads, accusing them of "extraneous" considerations related to the upcoming elections. He maintained that the Netanyahu government had "added more to the health budget" than had been done in years.

Two months ago, Matza accused Kaplan Hospital - owned by Kupat Holim Clalit - of "vastly exaggerating" its own internal medicine occupancy rates for "political reasons" because Clalit was formerly owned by the Labor Party-affiliated Histadrut.

The overcrowding caused by the growth in population by one million people since then could be blamed, in part, for this increased mortality rate, Garti also said.

The *Jerusalem Post* learned that Garti was suspected by the Health Ministry of speaking in his own name in his letter to Netanyahu and Matza. He has been asked by a senior official to fax it with the signatures of the 93 department heads to prove they had actually signed it.

Moslem Miss Israel says she feels completely Israeli

By HEDI J. GLEIT

Miss Israel, Rana Raslan, considers herself "completely Israeli," even though she is Moslem and not Jewish.

"We all want peace. We're all one nation and there's no difference between Arabs and Jews," she said yesterday at her first press conference since winning the beauty contest on Tuesday evening.

She refused to discuss politics, saying, "There are people who understand politics better than me. I'm a beauty queen, not a political queen."

She also refused to say more than a few sentences in English, "because the people of Israel want to hear how I speak in Hebrew, not English," she said in fluent Hebrew.

Raslan and Miriam Ofer-Mozes, editor of the magazine which sponsors the contest, both emphasized that her victory was not a political decision.

"Listen, I'm Israeli and everyone accepts that. The judges picked me because they thought I was the most beautiful," said Raslan, who won a beauty contest in the Arab sector three years ago.

"I have been asked if this was a political decision... This contest is about beauty, about personality, about a big heart, it has nothing to do with politics," Mozes said, adding that since the first contest some 49 years ago, Arab-Israeli women have been welcome to compete in it.

However, Prina Rosenblum, who was one of the judges, said she voted for Raslan to send a message to the Arab world.

"It is the first time in Israeli history that an Israeli Arab has been chosen as beauty queen," Rosenblum said. "The message is that we want a true peace."

Though Raslan, 21, of Haifa, was nervous during the press conference and burst into tears at one point, she said that she was quite comfortable modeling a bathing suit during the contest. Raslan studied at Carmel High School and has been working as a make-up artist since.

She intends to dedicate this year to her role as Miss Israel and assisting Variety, the organization for handicapped children.

"I want to thank all the judges who chose me and I hope not to disappoint them," she said.

Raslan succeeded Linor Abergil, who drew the media's attention both by becoming Miss World and then by announcing that she had been raped last year, encouraging other rape victims to come forward and press charges.

Reuters contributed to this report.



From left: ARZA president Philip Meltzer, Israel Religious Action Center director Rabbi Uri Regav, and ARZA chairman Jerry Tanenbaum present Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday with thousands of postcards from American Jews protesting Knesset involvement in the who-is-a Jew question.

US Reform Jews bring a postbag of grievances to Knesset

By ELI WOHLGELER

Representatives of the American Reform movement took their case for religious pluralism to the Knesset yesterday when they presented Speaker Dan Tichon with some of the 4,500 postcards mailed in by members protesting their exclusion, or marginalization, from Israeli life.

"We're bringing them to you, as speaker of the Knesset, because I would like you to hear and be concerned with the feelings of American Jews," said Rabbi Amiel Hirsch, executive director of the Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA).

The printed postcards, half of them in blue addressed to Tichon and the rest in orange addressed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, read: "As a proud Jew and supporter of Israel, I am outraged by recent attempts to redefine in the Knesset who is a Jew. The state of Israel must not deny the legitimacy of millions of the world's Jews. Such legislation would recklessly and irreversibly damage the ties that bind us together."

"The nations of the world have treated Jews as

strangers for centuries. Do not allow the State of Israel, spiritual and physical homeland for all Jews, to pass laws that treat Jews as outsiders." Some of them had additional comments from the senders, including one declaring herself a Holocaust survivor; another saying: "You are willing to take reform Jews' money," from Baltimore, Md.; and a third: "Recognition that we are all Jews more than 50 years since the founding of the State of Israel is long overdue," from Foughkeepsie, N.Y.

"This shows that American Jews are concerned with their rights in the Jewish state," said Philip Meltzer, president of ARZA, "concerned with their relationship with the State of Israel. What we can't afford to let happen is to allow religious fundamentalists cause a rupture in the relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jewry, and that can happen if the forces of fundamentalism overcome those who believe in a pluralistic democratic Israeli society," Tichon said the Knesset is not the place for religious questions to be decided.

"It's not our problem, it's a political body, the Knesset," the speaker said. "We should understand the role of the Knesset - it's not the (chief) rabbinat.

and not back." He also called again for the report to be made public as soon as possible.

Asked if he would demand an apology from Hanegbi, Barak said: "That man does not interest me... and I have no intention of asking him for anything."

Levy said yesterday that the state comptroller's findings were "good news for everybody," adding that "the stain which had wrongly been put on Barak has now been erased... and this is a relief for us all."

Netanyahu, also campaigning yesterday, said he had not yet had a chance to read the still-classified report and does not feel it would be proper to respond to it before it is published.

The report will only be released next week on the return from the US of MK Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Landau is one of the three-member subcommittee that must decide what parts of the classified reports can be published from a security viewpoint. The other two members are Knesset State Control Committee chairman Yossi Katz and

BARAK

Continued from Page 1

Hanegbi has refused to comment publicly on the matter, but both Channel 1 and Channel 2 claimed he had privately said he "wouldn't even dream of apologizing."

Reportedly noted accusations Labor had made against Netanyahu, including the suggestion by MK Dalia Itzik that he was a CIA agent.

Barak, on a joint campaign tour with Geshet leader David Levy in the North, said he was not surprised by the report's findings. "I knew the truth all along, that there was no basis for the accusations," he said.

"Of course I feel relief, but the price I have paid, and the way in which the whole affair has been played out, have hurt me," he said. "No report can fully remedy that."

Barak said he has no intention of using his exoneration as part of his political campaign.

"The main lesson here is that these sorts of tragedies should not be used for political reasons," he said. "I am looking forward now,

to the return from the US of MK Uzi Landau, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Landau is one of the three-member subcommittee that must decide what parts of the classified reports can be published from a security viewpoint. The other two members are Knesset State Control Committee chairman Yossi Katz and

MK Ephraim Sneh (both Labor). Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon yesterday called for the report to be released immediately without waiting for Landau's return. Tichon criticized Sneh, who told journalists Tuesday the report completely exonerates Barak, instead of waiting for it to be publicly released.

Tichon said the report is not entirely favorable. "There was a problem at the (accident) site and it remains unsolved," he told reporters at the Knesset yesterday.

Responding to calls by opposition MKs that Hanegbi apologize, Tichon said people should wait and read the report before making statements.

"I am well versed in the affair and there are things in this report which deserve further consideration," he said. "There are no winners or losers in this matter."

Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal was less reticent, telling Army Radio yesterday the accident "was not the only disaster during [Barak's] time," as chief of General Staff, and that "he should have accepted responsibility."

Poll: I

Number of Russian immigrants doubles last month

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Poll: Families spending less on food

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The average Israeli family is spending less on food this year than last year, and is doing more of its food shopping in the large inexpensive supermarket chains, according to a survey for the Manufacturers Association food section.

Food Section chairman Rami Shalev said yesterday the survey was conducted in January among 600 representative Jewish households by the Geocartographia Institute, directed by Prof. Avi Degani and Dr. Rina Degani.

An Israeli family now spends an average of NIS 1,647 on food per month. Families of five or more spend an average of NIS 2,023, while families of three or four spend an average of NIS 1,691, Shalev said.

While monthly food expenditure has remained the same as last year in nominal terms, in real terms this sum does not take into account the approximate 8 percent annual

inflation rate, the survey conductors explained.

The survey shows that the large discount supermarket chains have strengthened their grip on the market and now account for some 35% of all food sold. The haredi food chains have also increased their share of the market and account for 5.3% of all food sold.

Neighborhood grocery stores and mini markets are losing their grip on the market, the survey finds. They now account for 20.3% of food sold in the Jewish sector, compared to 22% in the equivalent period last year. The open markets account for 6.9% of all food sold, compared to 8.6% in December 1997.

The chains account for 12% of all food sold, a decrease of 5% compared to December 1997. The large hypermarkets account for 10.4% of sales, 2% less than the same period in the previous year. But the cheaper food store chains increased their share of sales from 28% in December 1997

to 35% in December 1998.

Haredi supermarkets have increased their sales share from 3.2% in December 1997 to 5.3% in December 1998.

Food wholesale outlets have grown during the past year from half a percent of sales in December 97 to 1.2% in December 1998; 3.9% of the food was bought elsewhere.

Shalev said 95.8% prefer buying Israeli-made dairy products and cheeses, 93.2% Israeli-made frozen vegetables, 93.2% Israeli-made cold drinks, 91.3% Israeli-made manufactured processed meat products, 89.1% Israeli-made soy oil and olive oil, some 89% Israeli-made snacks, 88% Israeli-made soups, 86% Israeli-made cookies and biscuits, 66.4% Israeli-made pasta, some 62% domestic beer and some 55% domestic alcoholic beverages.

The survey shows consumers are relatively loyal and 61% to 81% continue buying products made by same company as before. Consumer loyalty runs especially high

regarding tea and coffee, 81% of whose buyers purchased the same product repeatedly, and baby food, where 80% bought the same product repeatedly.

According to the survey, 76% of consumers buy frozen vegetables they had bought before, 78% continued buying the same oil, 71% the same beer, 75% the same pasta, 74% the same non-alcoholic drinks, and 74% the same dairy products.

In another development, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said yesterday he intends to increase the penalty on shopkeepers and supermarket managers who fail to mark prices on products or use misleading advertising to mislead consumers.

A survey held by the ministry indicates the public perceives the absence of marked prices, or the partial marking of prices, as an attempt to deceive and defraud.

Sharansky said 97% of consumers want to see prices marked on every product and consider the law requiring it important.

NEWS

in brief

Tourism up 18% in February

The Tourism Ministry reported yesterday that 153,700 tourists visited Israel in February, an 18 percent increase from the same month last year. There was a 20 percent increase in the number of tourists arriving by flight, especially on direct services to Eilat, the ministry added. Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav attributed the increase to a comprehensive ministry campaign to encourage tourism to Israel in the lead-up to the year 2000. *Itm*

Buses ordered to use low-pollution fuel

Public transport in areas with a high population density will soon be obliged to use low-sulfur (0.05%) diesel oil. This was decided in an agreement reached this week by Environment Ministry Director General Roni Komar and his counterpart in the National Infrastructure Ministry, Ya'acov Katz.

The move is aimed at reducing air pollution in view of the Environment Ministry's figures on increased air pollution in the cities, much of it a result of vehicular exhausts. Komar said it could bring about a drop of some 30 percent in the air pollution caused by particles. The two director generals agreed to increase cooperation between the two ministries on issues relating to air pollution. *Liat Collins*

Suspected casino purse-snatcher detained

Security staff at the Oasis Casino in Jericho yesterday detained a 33-year-old Jerusalem man on suspicion he snatched a woman's purse, containing \$300, while she gambled.

The theft allegedly took place last week, and was recorded by the casino's security cameras. The man, recognized when he returned to the casino yesterday, was detained and transferred to the Vered Yericho police station for questioning. Police reported the man confessed to the crime. *Itm*

For sale: Scud missile fragment

Iraqi Scud missiles conjure up memories of fear and war, but a charity organization hopes American Jews will pay top dollar for the right to keep a missile fragment in their homes.

The starting price for the metal fragment from an Iraqi Scud that exploded in Tel Aviv during the 1991 Gulf War is \$1,500.

The American Association for the Israeli Soldier will sell the shrapnel, along with other memorabilia such as a disability certificate belonging to the late defense minister Moshe Dayan at a March 17 fund-raiser at New York's Waldorf Astoria hotel. About 1,000 American Jews will be among the bidders at the charity dinner.

"We have creative people in our fund-raising department," spokeswoman Nurit Dabush said about the decision to auction off the fist-sized fragment obtained from the IDF. *AP*

Slave labor suit under way as WJC satisfies Israeli survivors

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - The burgeoning lawsuits and compensation plans for Holocaust slave labor survivors took conflicting turns this week as the first case began hearings in the US, and the World Jewish Congress began to repair its relations with Israeli survivors aggrieved by its negotiation tactics.

The Ford Motor Company, which is being sued by survivors of wartime slave labor at its plant in Cologne, Germany, argued Monday in a federal court in Newark, New Jersey that it was incumbent upon the German government, not industry, to pay compensation.

That ran counter to the position both of the survivors suing the company and of the German government.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer last week in New York told the Jewish Community Relations Council there would be no public money for slave labor claims.

Bonn, however, is overseeing the creation of an industry-financed "humanitarian fund" for such claims, which is set to begin September 1, the 60th anniversary of the invasion of Poland. The amount of industry contributions to the fund is not yet known.

The fund is intended to protect German banks and industry from a series of class action lawsuits that have been filed in US federal courts.

In the last week, the WJC and

the survivors' lawyers have been in Germany to negotiate with the government over the fund.

The WJC is only now repairing its acrimonious dealings with Israeli survivors, who had resisted approving the \$1.25 billion settlement with the Swiss banks Credit Suisse and UBS, which is being supervised by US District Judge Edward Korman in Brooklyn.

Moshe Sanbar, chairman of the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel, said the settlement was flawed because it released the Swiss National Bank from all claims.

The effect was that when the World Jewish Restitution Organization, which is led by the WJC, signed the Swiss settlement in January, it was unable to satisfy the banks that the settlement had widespread Jewish approval because the Israelis, the largest group of survivors in the world, were noticeably missing, one of the lawyers said.

WJC secretary-general Israel Singer got Sanbar to agree to the settlement by promising in a letter to include the Israeli survivors in virtually every subsequent compensation negotiation.

In another development, 58 Ukrainians have sued in a Nuremberg labor court for compensation for wartime slave labor at the Diehl armaments plant during World War II, citing as precedent an arrangement Diehl reached last May to compensate a number of Jewish women in their slave labor suit.

Number of Russian immigrants doubles last month

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Continuing the trend established over the past two months, immigration from Russia skyrocketed again last month, increasing 107% over February 1998, Jewish Agency officials announced yesterday.

During the first two months of 1999, 3,347 immigrants arrived here, an increase of 100% over last year. The immigrants come from all over Russia, especially Siberia and the country's far eastern region.

In Novosibirsk, where a synagogue was desecrated earlier this week, emigration to Israel is up some 200%.

One of the newcomers came from a little-known village called Tinda, on the border with China.

"The emissary had never heard of a place called Tinda. He trekked out there and found a Jewish community in which the mayor is Jewish and the two deputy mayors are Jewish. The non-Jews who live there call the town hall 'the Synagogue' because of this," an agency spokesman said yesterday. "They discovered there really are Jews in the town who want to come here," the spokesman added.

The interest is not limited to Russia.

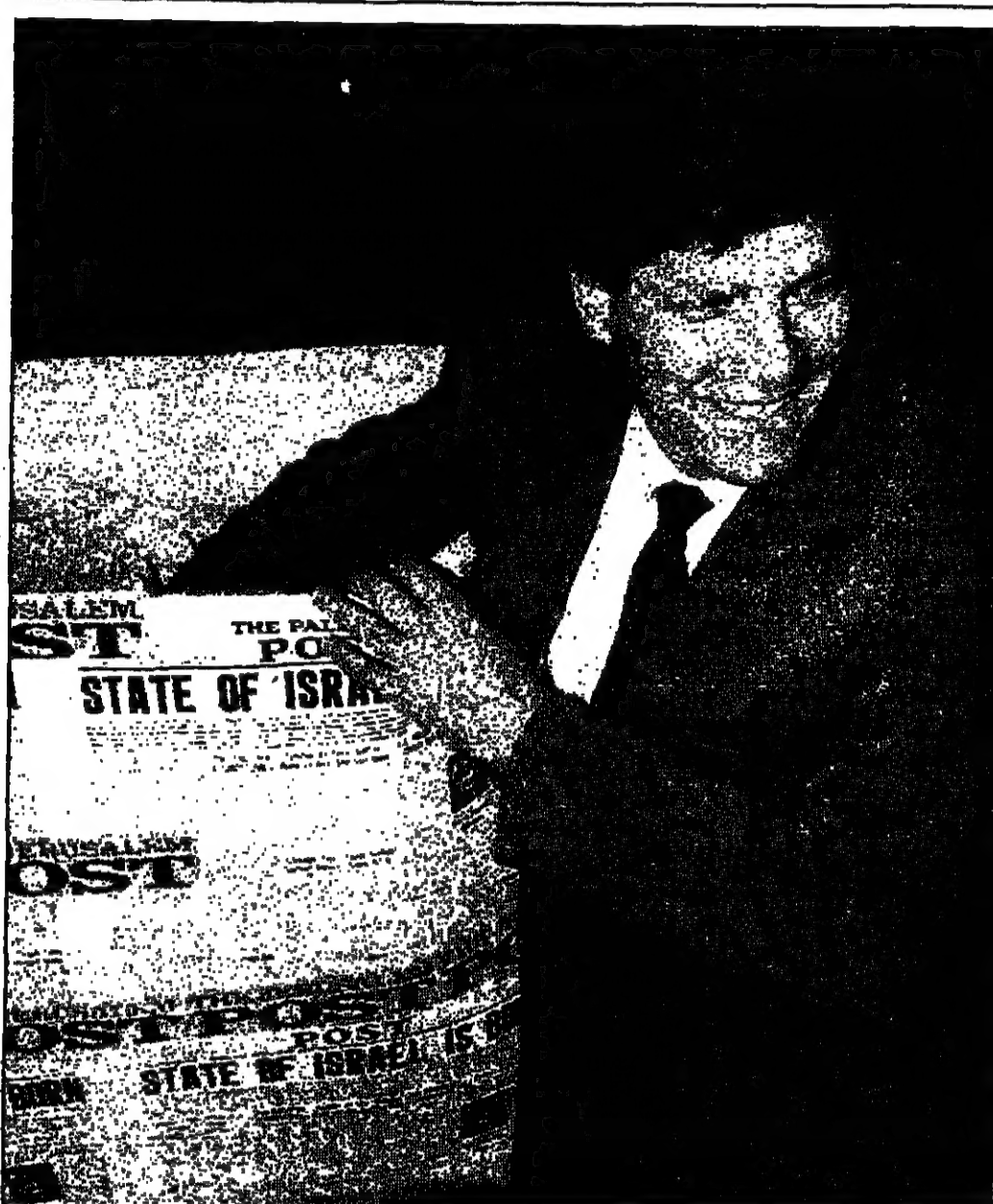
Golda, a 100-year-old woman from Tashkent, in Uzbekistan, whose last name was not available, has an extended family of 200.

She has decided she wants to hold this Pessah's seder in Israel, and is planning on immigrating with all her offspring, according to agency officials.

In various places in the former Soviet Union, Jews have been lining up in the snow for visa applications.

The number of newcomers from Moscow and surrounding area is up 84%, in northern Russia 94%, and in southern Russia 133%. Agency officials expect the rate of immigration to increase in the coming months.

The agency has increased its staff in Russia, expanded Hebrew-language courses whose students have doubled of late, and taken other steps to meet the increasing aliyah demand.



Northern exposure

Canadian Ambassador David Berger draws the name of Margaret Lachower of Ramat Hasharon, the lucky winner of 'The Jerusalem Post's Alaska Adventure contest. The drawing was held Tuesday at the 'Post' editorial offices in the presence of Arthur Goldberg, joint managing director of Greentours Travel Agency. Lachower's prize in the contest - sponsored by Lotus Tours of New York, Ophir Tours, and Greentours Travel Agency - is a two-week Alaskan cruise for two out of Vancouver, including two round-trip Tel Aviv-Vancouver air tickets. (Ariel Jerozinski/Jerusalem Post)

US financier Herman Merkin buried

Herman Merkin of Manhattan and Jerusalem, a prominent financier and philanthropist, was buried yesterday in Jerusalem.

Born in Leipzig, Germany, in 1907, Merkin arrived with his family in New York in 1940. He served in the US Army, then entered his family's fur business.

Nearly 40 years ago, he and his father, Leib, formed Merkin & Co., an investment banking concern.

He was a member of the American and New York Stock Exchanges, and a director of the Israel Discount Bank in New York. Merkin served as a trustee of Bar-Ilan University and Yeshiva University in New York, where he endowed a chair in Talmud and Jewish philosophy at YU's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. The position was held by Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik until his death in 1993.

He endowed the Merkin Concert Hall in Manhattan and was founding president of the Fifth Avenue Synagogue, where he served as president for more than 20 years.

Merkin was a supporter of Israel Bonds, UJA, Friends of the IDF, and institutes of higher learning, including the Open University of Israel.

He is survived by his wife, Ulla, six children - including daughter Daphne Merkin, the novelist and New Yorker literary critic - and a sister. *Jerusalem Post Staff*



Furry friends

These Furby interactive dolls - over 3 million of which were sold in the US last Christmas - will be available in toy stores here next week. Each Furby has an infrared sensor and 800-word vocabulary which allow it to 'converse' with its owner with one-liners in English. The dolls are available in a variety of fur and eye colors and are intended for children over the age of six. Expected price: NIS 220.

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Which region?

A small island, smack in the center of the Mediterranean, is a good place to talk about the idea of a Mediterranean consciousness. It's a relatively new, somewhat trendy idea that has much to recommend it.

Malta looks like a cross between southern Italy and Jerusalem, with a strong dash of England. The language sounds like Arabic spoken by Italians and written in the Roman alphabet by people who are close to being lineal descendants of the Crusaders. People have names which seem wholly Italian, Arabic or British. It is only 100 kilometers from Sicily and only slightly farther from "Africa," a euphemism in this case to avoid reminding the tourists that Muammar Gaddafi's Libya is just over the horizon.

Not surprisingly, Maltese culture is typified by the answer to my question about which items on the buffet were local specialties. "You take a bit of everything," I was told.

It's a charming place where people make their living from small-scale farming, tourism, textiles and — more colorfully — from money laundering and transshipping goods to circumvent the embargo on Libya.

Like the Maltese menu, the idea of a Mediterranean region as an important focus for international affairs takes a bit from everywhere. For southern European countries — especially Spain and Italy but sometimes also France — it represents a chance to make themselves more important.

Originally, the concept was also a way for Europeans to do something which made them able to exclude the United States. But here, as elsewhere, American involvement has filtered in also.

For Arab states along the coast — especially Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt (though Jordan has also managed to be accepted for participation) — a Mediterranean identity offers an alternative way to build relations with Europe and to try to get more aid money. For Israel, it allows contact with Arab states in a far less confrontational context than does the "Middle East" label and also, as with the Arabs, another and more relaxed road to Europe. And since it is a Western-organized forum, the participating Arabs can't boycott Israel. Syria, Lebanon, and Libya are not primary participants.

BUT what does it all amount to so far? Well, mostly good conversation and good intentions.

Both the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have put some money and effort into Mediterranean dialogue. With the collapse of the Soviet bloc, NATO lost its mission by succeeding. The 1990-1991 war over Kuwait showed American and European generals that the main front for future conflicts would be more likely in a southward rather than easterly

direction. The civil war in Algeria has been another important impetus. Fears of terrorism, instability, and hordes of refugees making their way across the central sea were powerful motives.

Drug smuggling, money laundering, the collapse of immigration controls, and environmental pollution were also worrisome.

Aside, then, from potential investment (especially in oil and gas), the Europeans decided to pay attention to these poorer, noisier neighbors lest their problems blow up in their neighborhoods.

Economic development, training, and coordination could perhaps avert some unpleasant outcomes. Enlightened self-interest, of course, is sometimes the best of motives.

Is there a Mediterranean culture? Certainly, there are compelling common historical experiences. Of course, the Moorish invasion of Spain, Roman conquest in the land of Israel or the Turkish siege of Malta were not so pleasant at the time. In retrospect, at least, they have become picturesque events in that process called history. And anyone who's ever been in, say, Tunis, Italy, Greece, Beirut, and Tel Aviv — among other places — knows that there are some important psychological and material similarities.

TO BE a region, of course, the Mediterranean has to have political problems. There are the old standbys, the Arab-Israeli and Greek-Turkish conflicts, and some new issues as well. The struggles in the Persian Gulf and the Balkans always seem to seep into the exchanges, reminding us that the Mediterranean with all its difficulties is in better shape than some of its neighbors.

These are, however, wars into which local countries may be drafted, or at least the Mediterranean is an important strategic route for getting to these places.

Any Israeli who has ever witnessed a Greek-Turkish (or Indian-Pakistani, for that matter) debate can come away thinking that our disputes are relatively more solvable, though more bitter. Perhaps there is more of an urge to have a peace process precisely because our disputes have been more heated, more violent, more dangerous.

As for Algeria, the terrible civil war goes on, filled with atrocities. Yet there is clearly not going to be any winner, or at least any new radical Islamic regime on the Mediterranean's south shore.

The Mediterranean has certainly not arrived at peace, but perhaps it has at least transcended international war. It has great music and food, people who are warm while intense, having a powerful sense of history yet a willingness to grow and change.

The Mediterranean sounds like a nice region to be a part of, a good club to join.

The Region



Barry Rubin

A Republican center

By RONALD BROWNSTEIN

AUSTIN, Texas — Bush and Dole: Now as in 1988, the two names haunt the Republican Party's conservative activists.

Eleven years ago, many conservatives fumed when the GOP presidential race came down to two candidates rooted in the party's more moderate wing: Bob Dole, then a senator from Kansas, and George Bush, the then-vice president who went on to win the nomination and the White House.

Now, conservative activists confront a 2000 race eerily paralleling the '88 campaign. Once again, the two leading contenders are rooted in the party's center. And once again, they are named Bush and Dole.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the former president's son, is the clear front-runner — a position he underscored Sunday by unveiling a heavyweight team of party leaders to head his campaign exploratory committee.

Elizabeth Hanford Dole, the wife of the GOP's 1996 presidential nominee, runs a solid second in the polls and is to announce her own exploratory panel Wednesday in Iowa.

The most conservative candidates eyeing the race — who include 1996 hopeful Steve Forbes, former Vice President Dan Quayle and two-time contender Patrick J. Buchanan — remain confident that many in the party's base will demand a more right-leaning alternative.

But surveys in several key primary states have found Bush and Dole demonstrating such broad appeal — running well even among conservative voters — that they could make it difficult for a challenger to emerge on their right.

"There may just not be enough of those (voters) there on the right to make anyone else viable when you've got two people who have such broad appeal," said Warren Tompkins, a South Carolina-based GOP strategist.

AS Bush and Dole move closer to the race, that prospect is already compelling the most conservative contenders to challenge their credentials.

"Is this really going to be the salvation?" asked Jeff Bell, a senior adviser to social conservative activist Gary Bauer, who plans to announce his presidential candidacy next month.

Referring to President Bush's failed 1992 re-election bid and Bob Dole's loss in 1996, Bell added: "Our nominees were named Bush and Dole the last two times and we averaged about 40 percent of the popular vote. There are a lot of reasons why people should be very chary of that."

Their inherited name identification is part of the reason Gov. Bush and Mrs. Dole, if they run, would begin the race in such strong shape.

Recent polls in states such as Iowa, Michigan and Ohio have found Bush leading, with Dole second. In New Hampshire, the most recent CNN/WFUR survey found Dole and Bush both drawing around 30 percent, with no one else above single digits. In national surveys, Dole still runs second to Bush but more distantly: a new Time/CNN poll puts him at 48 percent and her at 17 percent.

"It's like her and Bush in that tier, and then everybody else," one senior Dole adviser said.

Whether it stays that way is another question. A presidential

race headlined by this Dole and this Bush looks far less predictable than the 1988 contest.

Though Bush has been successful as Texas governor, he has never before sought national office. Dole, who recently stepped down as president of the American Red Cross, is even more of a wild card.

Though she has held high-level Washington positions since the mid-1960s, including Cabinet posts, Dole has never run for public office.

That lack of electoral experience may be one reason her prospective candidacy has drawn relatively little support from GOP officeholders, even as governors, state legislators and members of Congress from around the country are in a virtual stampede to endorse Bush.

OTHER questions loom over a potential Dole candidacy. While she has raised millions at the Red Cross, her ability to attract political funds remains unproven. And while she can be an accomplished performer, she also has a reputation for demanding exacting control over all situations — an instinct that may not be compatible with the campaign trail's free-form chaos.

"She is so tightly wound that when they wanted to do a stop with *Better Homes and Gardens* (magazine) last time, she did two hours of prep on her favorite apple pie recipe," said one veteran of the Bob Dole 1996 campaign.

Most unclear is how Mrs. Dole would affect the basic geometry of the emerging GOP race. Like Bush, she has taken few specific positions. Yet her early appearances suggest that she will position herself as a "compassionate conservative" strikingly similar to Bush. Both have presented themselves as advocates of traditional values (and opponents of legal abortion). Given that ideological overlap, some in the GOP believe that Dole's entry would help the conservative candidates by peeling away centrist voters from Bush, if he ultimately runs.

YET a Dole candidacy could have much more complicated implications.

Most immediately, it would put enormous pressure on prospective centrist candidates other than Bush — such as Arizona Sen. John McCain, Ohio Rep. John R. Kasich, and former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander. Each would face a formidable new competitor for attention and fund-raising dollars.

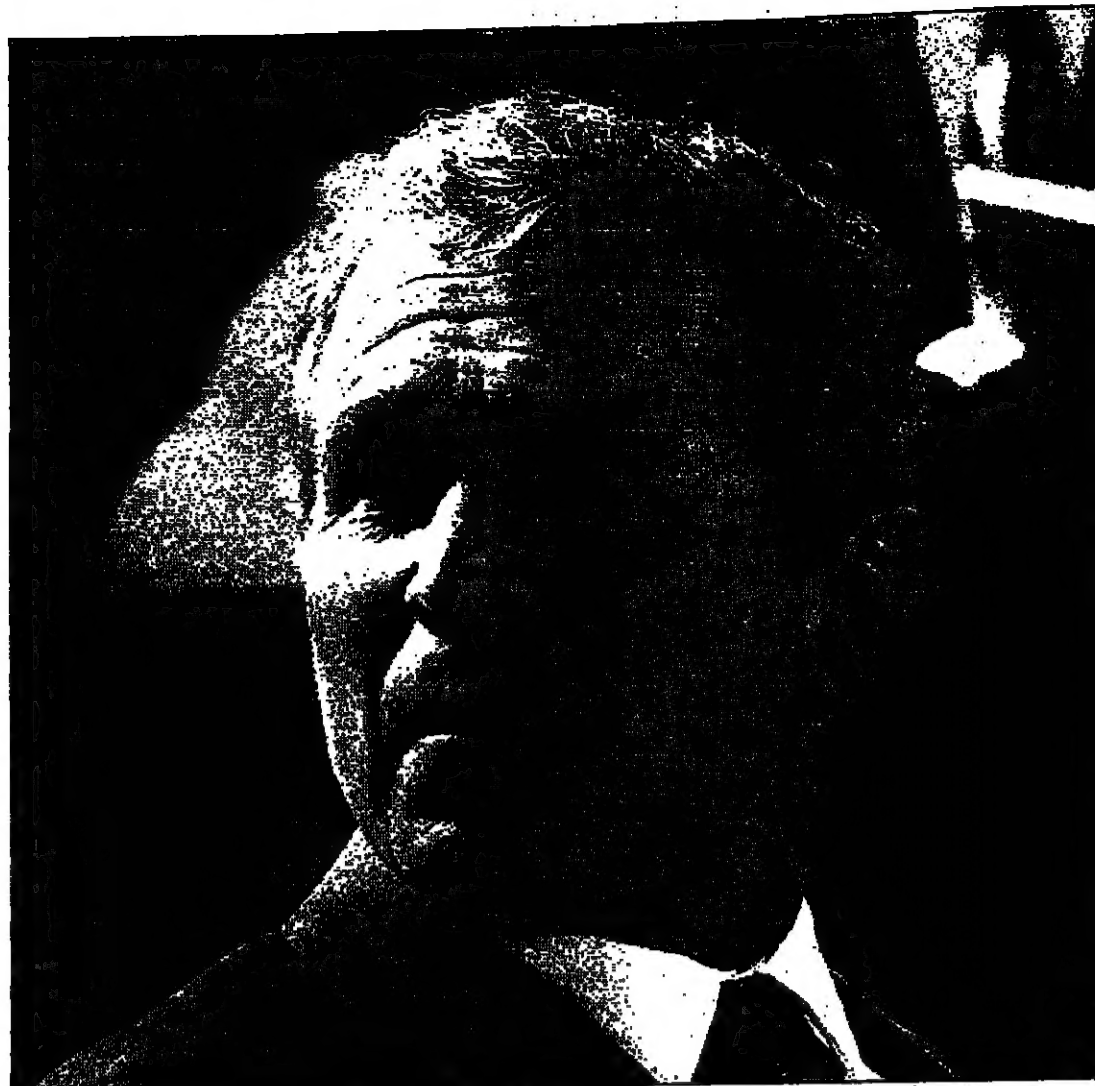
More surprisingly, a Dole candidacy also could threaten the strategies of the conservative candidates.

Almost universally, these contenders believe that the race eventually will come down to a choice between someone from the center and someone from the right. But if Dole can sustain significant support, that assumption may be undermined.

In 1988, conservative candidates such as Jack Kemp also assumed that the race would end up pitting a conservative against a moderate.

But no conservative ever cracked the first tier because George Bush and Bob Dole attracted too much support from conservative voters in the early primaries to leave a base for anyone else.

The same thing could happen this time. In the recent CNN/WFUR poll — as well as a private Iowa survey — the younger Bush and Mrs.



Texas Governor George W. Bush listens to a question at a news conference last week after announcing the formation of a presidential exploratory committee to raise money and measure support for a 2000 White House bid. Below: Elizabeth Dole greets supporters at a campaign stop at a Colorado airport earlier this winter. (AP)



Dole ran as strongly among conservative Republicans as they did among moderates.

"If they can hold onto 40 percent of that very conservative group, you don't leave a lot of room for an alternative conservative candidate to emerge," said GOP pollster Whit Ayres.

Forbes adviser Greg Mueller argued that Bush and Dole would see their support narrow on the right "once they start getting into a discussion of the issues."

THERE'S another complication facing both the centrist and conservative contenders chasing Bush and Dole. These candidates face the risk that attacks on either of the front-runners could simply drive support from one to the other — rather than to any of them.

Indeed, a recent University of Cincinnati poll in Ohio found that, by far, the top second choice of Bush supporters in 2000 was Dole — and vice versa.

This potential alignment presents a final unusual wrinkle.

Frequently, the No. 2 candidate in the primaries takes the lead in trying to tear down the front-runner. But for now, Bush and Dole show virtually no inclination to criticize each other — perhaps partly because many believe that Dole could be the presumptive choice as Bush's vice president if he runs and wins the nomination. (LA Times)

Qatar embraces democracy

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI

DOHA, Qatar — With one of the world's highest per-capita incomes and only about 150,000 citizens, this small, close-knit state on a peninsula in the Persian Gulf is practically as much a club as it is a country.

Despite its pint size of 4,400 square miles, however, Qatar proved itself this week to be a leader in bringing democracy to the region.

It held its first elections, and in a step that was nothing less than revolutionary for the conservative region, women were permitted both to vote and to run for office.

Amid smiles and a sea of fluttering black veils, democracy was born in Qatar, fittingly, on International Women's Day.

"In my wildest dreams, I wouldn't think it would happen in Qatar in my lifetime," said Jehan Meer, a professor of biochemistry and genetic engineering at the University of Qatar. "But here I am, sitting in an election site."

Meer, who earned a master's degree at California State

University, Long Beach, and a doctorate at the University of London, was one of six women who defied the conventions of her country to run for a place on a 29-member council that will advise the Ministry of Local Government.

None of the six women seriously expected to win, and they were right. When returns came in Monday night, an all-male council had been chosen.

But by calling the elections, Sheikh Hamed bin Khalifa al-Thani sent a not-so-subtle message to his fellow Gulf rulers that the best way for monarchs to stay in power is to voluntarily empower the people.

At Meer's polling station, a school in the eastern part of Doha, the Mercedes, BMWs and Toyota Land Cruisers were triple-parked outside, as Qataris thronged to fulfill their first act as full-fledged members of a budding democracy. "I will probably have to wait for an hour," said Khaled Enadi, an employee of the state telephone company. "But we believe we have to vote."

Voters acknowledged that the council on local government was not in itself likely to be very powerful. But the vote still was seen as important because it was the first time since independence in 1971 that Qataris had the chance to vote for official representatives.

Besides, the emir — a 49-year-old baby boomer who has increased freedoms since coming to power in 1995 — has made clear that the council election would be a dry-run for parliamentary elections within three years.

ELECTED government is largely an untried model for the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, the tribally run, conservative Islamic and Arab states that control much of the world's petroleum. Among the six, only Kuwait has a parliament. And there, women are not allowed to participate. Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates have no direct elections, only consultative councils whose members are appointed to help advise the rulers.

So Qatar's decision was star-

ting, and the move was likely to embolden democrats and women in the region.

In deciding to include women, the emir did meet some murmurs of resistance. Qatar's traditions are not very different from those in Saudi Arabia next door.

In both countries, the majority of women do not venture outside the home unless they are covered in black from head to toe. Most women hide their faces — as well as their hair and bodies — with only the eyes showing through a gauzy or slitted veil. Restaurants and other public places have separate sections for men and women, and females never or almost never drive cars.

Unlike Saudi Arabia, however, in Qatar these social mores are not enforced by the police. Women are free to abide by the strictures or not, and the emir's second wife and consort, Princess Mozah, promotes women's rights.

About 23,000 Qataris registered to vote, including nearly 10,000 women. After nine hours, between 90 percent and 95 percent of those registered had cast ballots in the

capital and a somewhat smaller percentage in rural areas, officials said.

The voting went smoothly despite delays due to crowds. In a bow to conservative sensibilities, there were separate voting queues and ballot boxes for men and women.

Most people still are too traditional to actually elect women, said candidate Muza al-Malki, a rare example of a unveiled Qatari woman.

Educated partly in the United States with a degree in family counseling, she is planning to open up the emirate's first family-counseling practice.

Malki said before the vote that no matter what the outcome, she was thinking of the future. "My eye is on the parliament. People have to go onto the next step — this election is the first step to having a parliament where we can do real changes."

Meer said that even voters who agreed with giving women the vote often think that they are not really ready for public office. (LA Times)

Beersheba District Court

Legacies File 886/97
Presiding: Judge Alon

In the matter of the probate of the will of the late
Dov David Rubinstein

Petitioner: Ilana Hoffman, Canada

Respondents: 1. The Administrator General
2. Ms. Gilda Cassy, ID No. 310030135

To: Ms. Gilda Cassy

1. In accordance with the decision of Judge Alon on March 3, 1999, you are requested to present your claims to benefits in the estate of the deceased, in the Beersheba Family Court, Rehov Hanesim, within 15 days of the publication of this notice.

2. If you fail to do so, the court may issue an order that, according to the provisions of the will, you have no rights in the estate of the deceased.

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Albright begs Congress to delay votes on Kosovo intervention

By TOM RAUB

WASHINGTON (AP) — US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright yesterday urged Congress to put off votes on Kosovo policy during this time of ultra-delicate negotiations, saying it would "complicate our efforts" to broker a peace.

"A vote at any time to oppose an authorization would be taken by both sides as a green light to resume fighting," Albright told a House Appropriations subcommittee.

The House has scheduled a full floor debate for today on whether US troops should be sent to Kosovo. A Senate vote on the same issue could come as early as next week.

Albright said there couldn't be a worse time for Congress to begin debating the issue of US troops — with US envoy Richard Holbrooke in Belgrade meeting with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and US President Bill Clinton and most of his national security team out of the country.

Clinton has said he is ready to commit 4,000 US troops to be part of a 28,000-strong NATO peacekeeping force in the Serbian province if a peace accord can be reached between Kosovo's ethnic Serbs and ethnic Albanians.

There is considerable skepticism in Congress about committing US troops, with many members concerned that it would lead to another open-ended commitment like that in Bosnia.

Albright testified before the subcommittee which oversees the State Department budget.

Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Harold Rogers voiced skepticism toward any US mission in Kosovo, asking her what was the US interest in being there — and whether the administration would set an exit deadline.

"We know instability in the Balkans harms US interests," she said, suggesting the conflict could easily spread to other parts of the region. "It's easier to put out a campfire rather than a forest fire," she said.

She also cited "a compelling humanitarian reason" to end the bloodshed. As to exit strategy,

Albright said that one of the lessons of Bosnia was "not to set an artificial deadline."

As the House prepared to debate the Kosovo matter, Senate Majority Leader Rep. Trent Lott indicated the Senate will vote soon, too, on whether to set conditions on any deployment of US troops to Kosovo, including how much it would cost.

"I think it's legitimate that we have this debate now," Lott told reporters on Tuesday. "I don't think we should wait until the president presumes without congressional approval to put troops on the ground again."

Lott signaled that the Senate would vote on a series of amendments proposed by Rep. Sen. Kay

Bailey Hutchison that would block funds for such an operation unless the administration met certain conditions, including providing "the expected schedule for accomplishing the mission."

The amendments will be debated when the Senate takes up an emergency \$1.9 billion spending bill, perhaps as early as next week. The bill would provide aid for struggling US farmers, the American steel industry, Jordan and the Central Americans struggling to recover from Hurricane Mitch.

"I think it is important that Congress weighs in when we are talking about going into a sovereign nation. That is a very different situation from any we have dealt with in the recent past," Hutchison said.

WORLD

in brief

Two charged in China technology scandal

BOSTON (AP) — A federal grand jury indicted two men on charges they tried to illegally export missile-guidance equipment to China.

Collin Xu, 33, a naturalized Canadian citizen, is accused of violating the Arms Export Control Act, conspiracy and money laundering. He could face 65 years in jail. Yi Yao, 33, of Beijing, is accused of violating the export act. He could face up to 10 years in prison.

The two men, indicted Tuesday, allegedly conspired to buy military fiber-optic gyroscopes and ship them to a Beijing firm without notifying the State Department.

Gyroscopes can be used in navigational systems for missiles and aircraft guidance systems.

Bomb blast kills one, injures eight in Istanbul

ISTANBUL (AP) — A bomb ripped apart a taxi outside a state health clinic yesterday, killing the driver and injuring eight people, authorities said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility. Kurdish rebels, leftist and radical Islamic groups are active in Istanbul. Two people injured were reported in serious condition. The blast occurred in the middle-class neighborhood of Bakirkoy, near a busy shopping mall.

The bomb exploded under the rear seat of the taxi, which was parked in front of the clinic, shattering windows and burning five vehicles.

Last week, a car bomb exploded in the Turkish town of Cankiri, killing three. An underground leftist group claimed responsibility.

Japan to ease restrictions on imported fruit

TOKYO (AP) — Japan has decided to allow imports of five kinds of apples and two kinds of cherries, all varieties that the US had pressured Tokyo to approve.

The decision comes two weeks after a World Trade Organization appeals panel ruled that Japan acted illegally by blocking imports of fruit such as apples and cherries on health grounds.

But the move to permit more varieties of foreign fruit was not related to the WTO ruling, Takeo Kouchi, an official at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries, said yesterday.

"There's no connection," he said, adding that a date has not been set yet for halting the ban on the apples and cherries.

Four journalists arrested in Zambia

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — Police arrested four journalists after their newspaper reported flaws in Zambia's defense capability, their editor said yesterday.

The journalists were arrested in raids on their homes overnight and police sealed off the house of another who refused to leave, said Fred M'embe, chief editor of the independent daily *Post* newspaper. A sixth was not home when police came for him.

In its Tuesday edition, *The Post* quoted unnamed senior military officers as criticizing Zambia's ability to defend itself, saying it would not withstand an attack by the far superior army of neighboring Angola.

Official: 2% of Russians are alcoholic

MOSCOW (AP) — Alcoholism among Russian teenagers is on the rise, and drinking problems continue to afflict millions of Russians, a top health official said yesterday.

Some 2.5 million people, or nearly 2 percent of Russia's 146.3m. population, are officially registered alcoholics, but the actual number is probably much higher, Deputy Health Minister Gennady Onishchenko told a news conference.

"This is a frightening figure," he said, according to the Interfax news agency.

Germans drink less beer

BONN (AP) — Beer consumption fell in Germany by 2.9 percent last year, the government said yesterday, continuing a long-term decline as Germans increasingly turn to non-alcoholic drinks.

It slumped in Bavaria, home of the annual Oktoberfest beer bash, by 5.7 percent, according to agriculture ministry data.

A more health-aware public, high joblessness and a sluggish economy apparently account for years of declining beer sales, Germans recently lost the title of biggest per capita beer drinkers to the Czechs.

Though Germany still has some 1,200 breweries, more than the rest of Europe combined, the changing tastes are increasingly putting small beer makers out of business.

Khatami praises democracy, dialogue

By AFSHIN VALINEJAD

ROME (AP) — President Mohammed Khatami, the first Iranian leader to make a state visit to the West since the 1979 Islamic Revolution yesterday praised both democracy and the start of dialogue between nations.

Italy's premier, flanked by Khatami after two hours of private talks, made clear any openness toward the West must be coupled with respect for human rights and freedom.

Khatami, a 56-year-old cleric considered a moderate for Iran, said: "There's an absolute necessity to install democracy and to end all forms of dictatorship." Khatami also spoke of the "need to free the world of the perpetuation of violence and terrorism... I am quite proud that at the end of the 20th century I have begun a sort of dialogue between civilizations and countries and different people and cultures," Khatami told reporters.

Despite security tighter than the Italian capital has seen in years, eggs were smashed on Khatami's car as the president was driven through downtown Rome. Police reported that five Iranian protesters were detained.

At a dinner Tuesday night, Khatami declared he had come to Italy "to make our relations a symbol and pattern for friendship between East and West and Islam and Christianity."

In Washington on Tuesday, the State Department expressed hope that Italian officials would raise US concerns about terrorism and other issues during Khatami's visit.

Today's visit shifts attention to the Vatican, where Khatami is to meet with the pope.

French court convicts 6 Libyans in bombing

By PIERRE-ANTOINE SOUCHARD

PARIS (AP) — An anti-terrorism court yesterday convicted Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's brother-in-law and five other Libyans in absentia and sentenced them to life in prison in the 1987 bombing of a French passenger jet.

Libya had refused to hand over the suspects in the attack that killed 170 people, making the French trial largely symbolic.

UTA Flight 772, en route to Paris from Brazzaville, Republic of Congo, exploded over Niger, killing all the crew and passengers. The debris was scattered over 50 miles of the Tenere Desert.

The six convicted included

Abdallah Senoussi, a brother-in-law of the Libyan leader. At the time of the crash, Senoussi was the No. 2 man in Libya's intelligence agency.

Investigators who reconstructed the aircraft in Paris concluded that a suitcase loaded with explosives blew up in the baggage compartment.

In 1992, the UN Security Council imposed sanctions on Libya to try to force the North African nation to surrender suspects in the UTA bombing as well as two Libyans wanted in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people.

The sanctions limit diplomatic contacts, prohibit arms sales and ban flights to and from Libya.



Tibetan rite of rights

A Buddhist monk peers under a Tibetan flag to get a glimpse of the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India yesterday, as he presides over a ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet. The Dalai Lama affirmed that he believes a political solution ensuring the basic rights and freedoms of Tibetans within the framework of the People's Republic of China is still possible.

(AP)

Ahern calls for 'final breakthrough' in Belfast

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK

BELFAST (AP) — Sounding upbeat on a day of dashed hope, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern appealed yesterday for Northern Ireland's deadlocked politicians to achieve "a final breakthrough" before the first anniversary of the Belfast peace accord.

The British government, acknowledging that Catholic and Protestant leaders weren't ready to form a coalition government, earlier this week abandoned yesterday as its so-called "target date" to start returning local government responsibilities to local politicians. It set a new, symbolic deadline: April 2, Good Friday, the anniversary of the accord.

The major Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, would have four

positions in the 12-member, 10-department government. But the would-be government leader, Ulster Unionist chief David Trimble, insists the outlawed Irish Republican Army must start dismantling before the IRA's legal Sinn Fein Party can receive its two cabinet posts. Sinn Fein and the IRA have rejected that demand.

Ahern, whose government has co-sponsored the peace process alongside the British, didn't blame either side for the impasse. But he hinted that both the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein must move from their positions, noting: "In this process, all parties without exception have already had to swallow in the interests of peace many unpalatable things."

Britain's governor for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, held out

hope that the province's political exodus to Washington for St. Patrick's Day might narrow the gap between Trimble and Adams, who are both expected to attend a White House dinner and other events.

"Two or three days away from here with parties just talking is another step in helping them find a way forward. It will have a value that you and I will never see," Mowlam said.

Ahern said the British government has stuck to its commitments in the accord, appointing a human rights commission, launching a police reform commission, reducing troop levels and dismantling certain army installations. Both governments, he noted, have already paroled most of the IRA members and pro-British militants in their prison systems.

"I know that all involved will want to live up to their historic responsibilities, so that the agreement can come fully into effect by its anniversary... The boost to morale in every part of the community as the result of a final breakthrough will be enormous," he said.

Earlier yesterday, Trimble told BBC radio he felt "intensely disappointed about the way this week has turned out." He said he thought Sinn Fein politicians were lying when they said they couldn't influence the IRA's determination to retain its weaponry.

Trimble last year shared the Nobel Peace Prize with John Hume, Sinn Fein's moderate rival for Catholic votes, but Sinn Fein now accuses him of plotting to destroy the agreement.

Survey: Frequent sex helps keep you young

EDINBURGH (Reuters) — Sex at least three times a week can make people look 10 years younger, according to a survey published yesterday.

"It's not a case of these people having more sex because they look younger, they actually look younger because they are having more sex in loving, stable relationships," said Dr. David Weeks, a neuro-psychologist at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital.

Weeks, whose survey took 10 years to complete, told Reuters: "Because these people are having a better sex life, they feel better about themselves and actually look younger." Weeks, an American, interviewed some 3,500 people from Britain, Europe and the US after he placed an advertisement in *New Scientist*

magazine in 1988 which asked: "Do you look and feel younger than you are?" His survey of young-looking participants, stretching from rain-swept Scotland to sunny California, found that on average, they had sex at least four times a week — twice as often as the average person.

When the participants were "rated" by volunteers who tried to guess their ages, the men were assumed to be 12 years younger and the women 10 years younger than they actually were.

How does making love tap the fountain of youth?

The human body produces growth hormones and other chemicals like endorphins during sex that enhance the body and mind, Weeks said.

Former senator D'Amato to pen advice column

NEW YORK (AP) — They say politics makes strange bedfellows, but the publishing business can create odd couplings as well.

Former Republican senator Alfonse D'Amato announced he will be penning an advice column — "Ask Alfonse" — for *George* magazine, whose editor-in-chief is John F. Kennedy Jr., nephew of Democratic stalwart Sen. Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts.

His first piece of advice was to JFK Jr., saying in a news conference Tuesday that Kennedy might soon "be ready to lead the city of New York."

Kennedy's response: "Really, uh, not today, certainly."

D'Amato, who spent 18 years in Washington before he was

defeated by Democrat Chuck Schumer last year, has not exactly been a friend of the Kennedys. In his autobiography, *Power, Politics and Politics*, D'Amato said "Kennedy's dual standards never ceased to amaze me."

Yet he treated his future boss much more kindly in suggesting Kennedy has what it takes for public office. "He's got that electricity. He's got that persona," D'Amato said. "He can do and be whatever he chooses, and he will choose in the fullness of time to pursue public service."

Kennedy said in response that his job as *George* editor "isn't politics but it bumps up against politics... if it changes into something else in a number of years, great."



Request for Information No. C4070066

Supply, Installation and Servicing of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Energy Management Control Systems (EMCS)

The Israel Airports Authority (IAA) hereby requests Technical Proposals from qualified Offerors meeting the below listed Pre-Conditions for the Supply, Installation and Servicing of Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and Energy Management Control Systems (EMCS) for the Ben Gurion 2000 Project.

Preliminary Mandatory Requirements: This list summarizes the Pre-Conditions for an Offeror's Proposal to be considered by the IAA. Only the complete language of the Pre-Conditions as stated in the RFI is binding. This text may be obtained by written request, submitted on company letterhead, to the PMF facsimile number stated below.

- Offeror's minimum annual revenue in each of the last three (3) years was not less than the equivalent of Five Million U.S. Dollars (\$5 Million).
- Offeror has
 - A minimum of five (5) years experience supplying, installing and servicing SCADA/EMCS systems; and
 - Constructed a minimum of five (5) SCADA/EMCS systems of which at least one (1) single system contract had Eight Thousand (8,000) I/O points and at least four (4) system contracts had Three Thousand (3,000) I/O points, in the last eight (8) years. (Contracts must be separate and an individual project cannot be used twice to meet each condition.)
 - Experience in at least three (3) projects where he installed a network of at least five (5) M.M.L. computers in each one.
 - Experience in at least three (3) projects of integrating at least three (3) "third party" systems to his system.
 - A Day time (8 AM - 5 PM) manned service center.
- Remark: For each of the above projects, noted in items (iii) and (iv), the scope of the contract must include responsibility for the supply, installation and servicing of all equipment.
- Offeror shall meet the staffing and personnel experience requirements specified in the RFI, Part C.
- Offeror shall meet the VAT and Israeli Tax Authorities' registration requirements stated in the RFI, Part C.
- Joint Ventures are allowed to participate in the Tender in accordance with the conditions stated in the RFI, Part C, Part I.

Proposal Documents:

RFI Documents may be obtained until the Technical Proposal Submission Date from the Project Management Firm (PMF) Project Office located at Ben Gurion International Airport starting 8 March 1999 between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00, business days (Sunday through Thursday). Interested Offerors must contact the PMF Contracts Administrator, Mr. Amnon Yoshepe at telephone number: 972-3-977-4464 (Fax number 972-3-971-2956) a minimum of forty eight (48) hours in advance to arrange Site access.

A Pre-Proposal conference will be held at Ben Gurion 2000 Project Site Offices on 21 March 1999 at 10:00 to clarify provisions in the RFI documents, to summarize and present the Project. Offerors are strongly encouraged to attend, but participation is not mandatory. Site access must be arranged in advance as stated in the RFI.

All Technical Submittal Proposals shall be delivered in sealed envelopes/packages not later than 10:00 hours local time on or before 26 April 1999 to Mr. Richard Tattersall, Contracts Manager, Lehrer McGovern Bovis International Ltd., Ben Gurion 2000 Project Site Offices.

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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Ramat Gan, Jerusalem 91000
Telephone 02-531-5666, Fax 02-538-9527, CIRCULATION - 02-531-5610, 1-800-222-7278, Fax 02-538-9017, ADVERTISING - 02-531-5608, 02-531-5638/40 Fax 02-538-8408, TEL. AVIV: 5 Rehov Hanegezer, P.O. Box 28398 (61283) Telephone 03-639-0333, Fax 03-639-0277. Published daily except Saturdays, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Jerusalem Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem. Registered at the G.P.O. © The Jerusalem Post 1999. Reproductions or storage in a retrieval system, or in any other form, is prohibited without permission. Editors: 1932-1955 GERSHON AGRON, 1955-1974 TED LURIE, 1974-1975 LEA BEN-DOR, 1975-1989 ARI RATH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1990-1992 N. DAVID GROSS, 1992-1996 DAVID BAR-ILLAN
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Setting the record straight

Of all the lows to which Israeli politics have stooped, a prime candidate for the lowest was on June 24, 1997, when Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, in an official government response to a no-confidence motion, called opposition leader Ehud Barak "Ehud barak" (Ehud fled). Waving a copy of a 1995 article in *Yedioth Aharonot*, the minister in charge of the judicial system read out allegations that Barak had abandoned injured soldiers after a tragic training accident that killed five members of an elite unit.

Now, seven years after the tragedy, State Comptroller Eliezer Goldberg has completed an investigation begun by his predecessor, Miriam Ben-Porat. The report has not been released, leading to the common and unfortunate practice of a public debate based on leaks and partial information. But MKs from both Labor and the Likud agree that the charge Barak "fled" the scene to the detriment of injured soldiers was a baseless allegation.

In moral, military, and political terms, no accusation against an Israeli soldier could be more serious than "abandoning the wounded," particularly under circumstances of avoiding responsibility, without any exigencies of battle to possibly mitigate the charge. Aside from the obvious political ramifications, the personal pain that such an accusation must have caused Ehud Barak is hard to imagine.

Though Hanegbi takes the prize for the most cynical, prominent, and irresponsible use of the 1995 press report, initial reactions to the report did not follow party lines in a predictable manner. Some Likud MKs defended Barak, who suspected that its timing was related to internal Labor opposition to his imminent appointment as interior minister in the Rabin government. Likud MK Ze'ev Begin, for example, responded at the time, "The attempt to portray Barak as a coward and someone who would abandon the injured should worry anyone who despises character assassination. The timing of the [media] investigation bears witness to the intentions of its initiators." Shimon Peres, who yesterday defended Barak in glowing terms, responded at that time: "The report and facts that appeared in it create a serious problem in anticipation of Barak's inclusion in the government. The matter must be checked carefully."

By contrast, Binyamin Netanyahu, then opposition leader, reacted more skeptically to the press allegations: "I was sorry to read the things revealed by the [press] investigation. Every

effort should be made to discover what happened. A way must be found to determine the truth." The checked history behind those who sought to breathe life into these allegations ought to bring pause to anyone who wants to continue using them as a political football. Barak himself has handled the issue in a statesmanlike way, reminding everyone that at the heart of the matter are the bereaved families, and pledging that his party would not use the issue for political purposes.

But the current laudable restraint on the part of the Labor Party does not absolve the Likud of its responsibility for taking a misleading press report and cynically distorting it further. The 1995 report, for example, stated that Barak's helicopter left the scene without taking any injured soldiers. This would seem to be factually correct, but does not state facts which change the picture entirely: by the time Barak left, there were two large helicopters on the ground specially equipped for evacuating wounded, all of whom were being attended to.

Even by the low standards of political discourse (including charges of "traitor" and "murderer" by the Right and Left, respectively) the context of Hanegbi's use of the epithet "Ehud barak" to describe Israel's most decorated soldier is arguably more serious. This was not an isolated group chanting at a rally, but an official uniquely responsible for the maintenance of the rule of law leveling unsubstantiated charges, while a formal investigation was under way.

Now that the state comptroller's investigation is over, the portions not classified for security reasons should, and no doubt will, soon be made public. During the hiatus between the leaking of the report's substance and its public release, Hanegbi and Netanyahu will have time to reconsider their initial unrepentant approach.

They should not hide behind the fact that the comptroller may not have completely resolved questions of what Barak might have done, beyond the swift and professional treatment that the injured received, to comfort and assist them. It is hard to believe that anyone can honestly argue that, as chief of General Staff, they can be sure he should have behaved differently.

Rather, Hanegbi personally, and Netanyahu on behalf of the Likud Party, should assess whether they have deeply wronged a public figure who, though a political rival, deserves an apology. "Mine honor is my life," said a noble to the king in Shakespeare's *Richard II*. In politics, honor may not be accorded such weight these days, but it ought to count for something.

Awaiting justice

URI DAN

The alacrity with which our investigative and judicial authorities questioned and charged Yisrael Bondak with broadcasting incitement on a Jerusalem radio station is to be welcomed. But this efficiency makes one wonder, three-and-a-half years after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, when agent provocateur Avishai Raviv will finally be brought to justice.

which was introduced on television in a fraudulent, set-up broadcast, and most seriously, who provoked and encouraged Yigal Amir to shoot Rabin.

There is incontrovertible evidence to this effect, hidden for three years in the files of the Shamgar Commission and the Israel Police.

People in the government may argue that Raviv's handlers had no

Legal action against Avishai Raviv is probably being delayed because it would expose the collusion between the GSS and State Attorney's Office in the handling of this agent provocateur

Israelis have short memories. Raviv did not represent only himself, as Bondak did, and did not act, as Bondak did, in a privately owned framework. Raviv was getting a government salary as an agent for the General Security Service, which considered him a success story.

In testimony before the Shamgar Commission that investigated the Rabin assassination, Raviv's handlers recalled with pride how "they had succeeded in getting him into groups that are difficult to infiltrate," namely, groups on the extreme Right. It was a fact that he knew assassin Yigal Amir well.

What has been kept secret by the law-enforcement authorities - the attorney-general, the state attorney, and the GSS - is how Raviv turned from a secret agent into an agent provocateur. An agent who incited to violence, who organized impressionable youths into a "violent right-wing organization,"

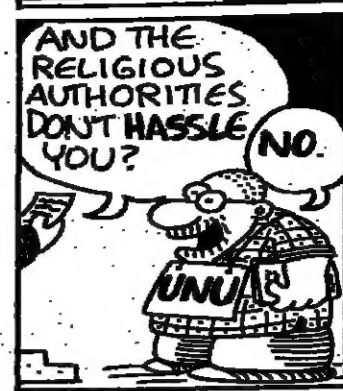
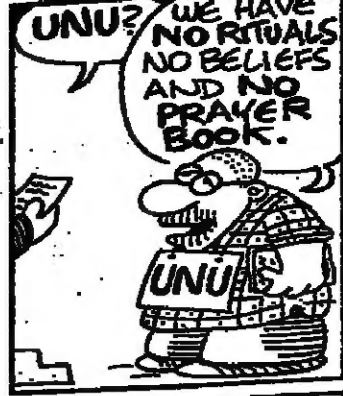
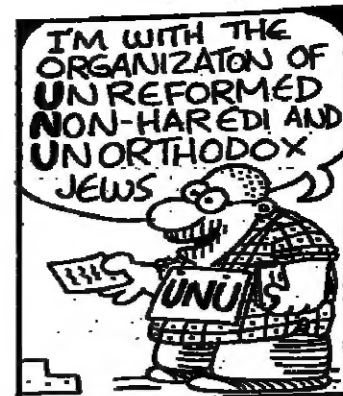
way of knowing in advance about all the provocative things their agent might do.

But there is no doubt in evidence in Raviv's file indicating that at least some of the provocations had advance approval, not just from his handlers in the GSS but from the State Attorney's Office, approval that later led to the closing of criminal investigations against Raviv. The stupid-to-the-point-of-criminal explanation for this collusion was that "it was the only way for him to penetrate the groups on the extreme Right."

THE execution of judgment against Avishai Raviv is therefore the only way, not only to punish him, but to shine some much-needed light on this darkest of corners, in which the security and law-enforcement authorities met to operate this agent provocateur.

After all, we are talking about the most serious lapse of the GSS under Carmi Gillon, which ulti-

Dry Bones



mately ended in the murder of the prime minister.

One could assume that Raviv's trial is being delayed - even as the handling of Bondak's case is being expedited - for reasons other than just the agreements between Raviv and the GSS. It is being held up because it would expose the responsibility of various people in both the GSS and the State Attorney's Office for the cavalier handling of Raviv.

Current GSS head Ami Ayalon has made progress in cleaning out the stables there, which were full of all kinds of refuse since the days of the Bus 300 incident. But the protection still being accorded to Raviv and his handlers raises serious questions about how successful Ayalon has been at the disinfecting process. This issue is of utmost importance, given the unending incitement

against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, in the spirit of Amnon Lipkin-Shahak's comment that "Netanyahu is a danger to the state." This type of awful incitement is going on around the clock by power-hungry politicians, who get the full cooperation of most of the media. Such incitement could lead to violence or even to murder, even though that is not anyone's intention.

One cannot recall such incitement other than in the historical hate campaign of Labor and the Left, against Ze'ev Jabotinsky after the murder of Anisavich ("Vladimir Hitler") against Menachem Begin ("the fascist"), and against Ariel Sharon ("the murderer").

The GSS needs agents in the right places, but not provocateurs. There are enough of those in Labor and the Left.

What price religious pluralism?

DANIEL DORON

Torn by an election process that is especially acrimonious and disruptive, Israelis could use some spiritual respite. It would be a great blessing if the 29th International Convention of the World Union of Progressive Judaism - which opened Tuesday on its beautiful Jerusalem campus - could provide us with this.

But, alas, our Reform Jewish brethren seem intent on getting involved in Israel's political mess, determined to further inflame a process already suffering from too much sectarianism.

It is not only arguments about war and peace that raise the temperature of Israeli political discourse to fever pitch. Life here is extremely tense. Most Israelis, talented and hardworking, find it most difficult to make a living, because of the country's extremely statist, centralized, and therefore grossly inefficient economy.

The state systems providing healthcare, education and police protection at great cost, barely function. And Israelis, of course, live in a constant state of siege.

All these should explain to our guests why nerves here are so badly frayed. It seems so unfair for them to add, unnecessarily it seems, more intractable problems and then threaten to withdraw their generous and loving support - which is so vital, if not monetarily, then certainly politically and morally - unless we solve them right away.

Unfortunately, conflicts over religious pluralism have deep historical roots in our community, and they cannot be resolved in haste or with belligerence. It also has intractable political ramifications.

This is why politicians of both camps try so desperately to avoid dealing with it.

American or European Jews, living in an atmosphere of relative religious freedom, find it difficult to comprehend this, since in their countries individuals are free to decide what faith to follow. Post-

pressures on them to discard their traditions, sometime even forcibly. No one preached pluralism then.

SO not all intolerance stems from the haredim. In fact, they have often reacted to a war against them, as have the "Sephardim" more recently. Through Shas, they revolted

Our Reform and Conservative brethren can contribute much to Israeli society, but throwing fuel on the cultural fire is not the way

enlightenment US and European Jewry could respond to modernity by developing neo-Orthodox, Conservative and Reform movements. Religious pluralism came about gradually, naturally, out of individual choice and over time.

Not so in Palestine. Turkish law, which still prevailed in religious matters even in mandatory times, organized religion by communities. It granted them state sanction as organized groups, not as individuals. So religion was involved with the state and with politics from early on, creating strong precedents, interests and dependencies that will not be simple to change or overcome.

Then came the militantly anti-religious socialists who dominated Jewish life in Palestine. They opened a bitter cultural and economic war against religious communities, first those of the Yishuv and later the observant Jews from Arab countries. They put strong

against the militant secularism that smashed their social structure and caused them enormous social and economic problems.

Religion has, furthermore, become involved with politics, as the two major political blocs found it profitable to purchase the support of religious parties to help gain political control. The Orthodox community, like the kibbutzim, for example, were finally corrupted by government handouts that created a culture of dependency. However, the Orthodox were singled out for blame, even though they were playing the same political game as everyone else.

It is all one unholy mess, and the Reform and the Conservative movements have unfortunately stepped right into it, like so many bulls in a china shop. Anyone who considers with care the extremely difficult life in Israel, the brittle nature of the consensus that holds

us together, must acknowledge that Israel can ill afford to have more fuel thrown on the cultural fire.

With all due respect to the really important question of religious pluralism, and to the status and dignity of Reform and Conservative rabbis, do our good brethren really believe that they can justify an all-out war just now, when Israelis have so much to contend with?

Have any of them noticed, incidentally, that besides religious pluralism, Israel also lacks any other sort of pluralism? Have any of them paid attention to our single-voiced media, for example, or our monolithic culture and economy, that have all been shaped by decades of total Socialist domination?

The Conservative and the Reform movements have much to contribute toward the building of a civil society in Israel, by encouraging greater spirituality and pluralism. But making war about the issue of conversion, an issue that does not really touch the life of thousands, or by throwing their lot with one political camp and taking sides in very divisive issues, is not the way.

Religious movements should rise above the political fray. The Reform and Conservative leaders should focus on non-partisan educational and spiritual work, and shy away from politics, despite the ambition of some of their Israeli rabbis.

Let them first establish a local constituency, the way Shas did. For the meantime, Israel does not need more religious partisanship inflaming its politics. It is too high a price to pay, even for religious pluralism.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

INFURIATING FARCE

Sir: - Was anyone else besides myself infuriated by watching the televised beauty pageant which had Miss World present the crown to the new Miss Israel, Rana Raslan? Here was a farce and an embarrassment to females, in the guise of a ceremony to "honor" beautiful ladies.

It began with a skit showing a blonde bimbo-type being tied-up and gagged (!), and continued

throughout the evening with a parade of drag queens and numerous verbal entendres that belittled and demeaned the girls who were competing for the title.

International Women's Day was marked this week, with a report that showed how women are routinely abused worldwide. In fact, your issue of March 8 (Page 4) mentioned that rapes and domestic

violence are on the increase in Tel Aviv.

Miss World was herself a victim of violence (kidnapped, bound and gagged, and raped), and I for one am amazed that she went so far as to actually thank the producer for the bizarre and insulting show that evening.

A.J. WEISS

Tel Aviv.

BATTLING TERRORISTS

Sir: - Battling terrorists is a difficult process. It is made more complicated by numerous political, legal and moral considerations.

Being involved in that battle, I know firsthand of the disappointments one faces when complications arise. Why then, when it comes to extradition requests, must we mix apples and oranges as did attorney Nitsana Darshan-Leitner in an opinion piece first published in *The Jerusalem Post* on March 2?

Seemingly disturbed by the intense American effort to have Samuel Sheinbein extradited to the US, Ms. Darshan-Leitner writes that she is surprised that "neither the [Clinton] administration, nor the Congressmen who have taken an interest in the Sheinbein case" have demanded the extradition of Palestinian terrorists to the US.

The implication is that Israel's Supreme Court is somehow reacting to the failure of the US government to respond to the request being made by American parents, including myself, for the arrest and extradition of Arab terrorists believed to be responsible for attacks on Americans, including my daughter Alisa.

Yet, it might surprise Ms. Darshan-Leitner to learn that the American government is actively working on these cases with an eye towards preparing indictments that will stand up in the US. Furthermore, it appears that hearings will soon be held in the US Senate that will, I hope, lead the administration to speed up the investigation and extradition process.

Comparing the merits of the Sheinbein case - he's accused of a grisly murder - to those involving

my daughter and the other Americans killed in Israel is a cheap shot. Ms. Darshan-Leitner knows full well that there must be an overriding local interest in order to deny extradition in a criminal case.

Israel's law protecting its citizens from extradition was designed to protect its citizens from prosecution abroad because they were either Jews or Israelis. The charges against Mr. Sheinbein have no relationship to the fact that he is Jewish or a citizen of Israel.

The price for playing tit-for-tat when it comes to the extradition of alleged common murderers and terrorists is too expensive and not worthy of a democratic process.

STEPHEN M. FLATOW,

West Orange, New Jersey.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 11, 1934, *The Palestine Post* reported that the editors of the Hebrew press had apologized to the High Court in contempt-of-court proceedings. They were accused of having published the restricted story of the alleged confession of Abel Mejid made concerning the murder of Dr. Haim Arlosoroff, which caused a

major sensation. 50 years ago: On March 11, 1949, *The Palestine Post* confirmed that a small Israeli mechanized column reached Umm Rashrash (in Israeli territory) on the coast of Eilat. Israel denied the Amman report that the column was stopped at one point by the Arab Legion forces.

25 years ago: On March 11, 1974, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the Prime Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir, had secured a Knesset vote of confidence in her new coalition government, by 62 against 46 votes, and pledged to continue the peace talks in Geneva.

Alexander Zvielli

The View From the East

DAOUD KUTTAB

From the female perspective

As a man, I don't feel qualified to speak on the issue of Palestinian women. But because International Women's Day this week has served to focus on women's issues, I decided to use my column to give several women the opportunity to express themselves on matters that concern them.

Like me, Rawia Shawwa, the outspoken member of the Palestinian Legislative Council, doesn't like the idea of one day a year set aside for women, just like she doesn't like the idea of one day a year being devoted to democracy. (The PLC, which was inaugurated four years ago on March 7, declared this day "Democracy Day" and organized seminars and lectures throughout Palestine dealing with the issue of democracy.)

Shawwa doesn't consider herself a women's activist. "I am active on issues of society," she told me by phone from her Gaza home. She feels that for society to move forward a marked change in the economic situation facing women is needed.

"In Gaza, women suffer because

of the economic situation," she said. "While Gazan men can go abroad or work in Israel, women are left at home and suffer greatly as a result."

To get out of this predicament, Shawwa believes there is need for social change.

"We need to work on raising the level of social awareness, so that women will not shy away from work."

Huda Imman, who is working in a Palestinian vocational training center, lays part of the blame on people involved in the various nongovernmental organizations.

"The gender issue must be dealt with internally; as the saying goes, 'charity begins at home.'"

Imman says that many institutions that preach gender are themselves discriminating by giving key jobs to men.

"We must stop thinking that having women secretaries and support staff is being gender correct. Women should be involved in policy-making jobs and not just token work."

Benaz Someri-Barawi, head of adult programming at Al Quds

Educational Television, feels that women's organizations are wasting their time by targeting women.

"They must target decision makers, who in our society are still men. At best, these organizations should target men and women together. Otherwise what we will have is relatively conscious and educated city women, but in the rural areas, in which the majority of women still live, women will continue to suffer."

Attorney Hanan Bakri from the Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling feels that the situation of women in rural areas needs a lot of legal attention.

"Our criminal laws are from the Napoleon's days and they are very lenient with regard to violence against women. We hear horrible stories of women in the villages being attacked and sometimes killed 'for the sake of honor.'"

Bakri wants the Palestinian legislature to move to pass much tougher laws against crimes of passion, so that this will deter violence against women.

Bakri also wants a law to give

women 10 weeks of maternity leave instead of the present 45 days, and is especially passionate about a minimum age for marriage.

"There is no religious reason why the age should not be 18, which will be in concert with the Mandatory Education Law," she said, explaining that if girls can't marry before 18, they have a better chance of finishing school.

She would also like to see laws rescinding arbitrary divorce. Education for girls was also highlighted at a conference held under the auspices of Suba Arafat, who heads the Higher Council for Childhood and Motherhood.

One of the speakers, Stephan de Vylder from Sweden, said that investing in girls' education goes a long way in helping societies advance for several generations.

"Underdeveloped countries usually say that they can't afford to invest in education, but developed countries say they can't afford not to invest in education."

To the women of Palestine and the world, happy International Women's Day.

Weekender

Stealing the show

Othello Molineaux, a jazz great on the steel drum, plans to have fun playing here this week.

By BARRY DAVIS

As a teenager in Trinidad, Othello Molineaux was one of the hottest jazz players around. Forty years on, the Miami-based Molineaux is the world's leading exponent of jazz steel-drum artistry.

On closer look, however, Molineaux's pedigree may seem more akin to the equivalent of winning the title of champion figure skater in Alaska, or best figure skater in the whole of the Sahara.

"The jazz community where I come from is very small," admits Molineaux, who performs tonight at Tomorrow at the Tel Aviv Museum. "You don't hear much jazz in Trinidad at all."

And, when it comes to competition in his chosen field, Molineaux has all of one other established player to contend with — Denmark-based steel drummer Rudy Smith. "There are a few other steel-drum musicians around, but they don't really play jazz," Molineaux adds.

But none of this should detract from the scale of the man's achievements in pioneering the steel-drum as a jazz instrument, and in bringing it to the attention of widely receptive audiences in places as geographically and culturally disparate as Los Angeles, Finland, Trinidad and Japan.

Growing up in the West Indies, where the prevailing musical genre was almost exclusively local calypso, surely it wasn't easy finding the kind of jazz sounds the young Molineaux yearned for. But he did get something of a head start from his older brother, Horace, who was already a jazz musician, and a leading light of the local jazz community.

"They'd hold meetings in our house, and I'd listen to all my brother's jazz records — anything I could lay my hands on," Molineaux recalls. The only source of outside jazz stimuli at the time was provided by a "very small local jazz radio station" and the jazz played by the station of the nearby US Army military base.

Wasn't it frustrating being a young, aspiring jazz musician in the Caribbean? "I just loved it. I didn't really care how popular it was," he says. "Mind you, I didn't get much work," he laughs, adding that he also played a lot of "commercial stuff" — reggae and calypso in order to pay the bills. "You have to do that sometimes, you know," he observes philosophically.

DESPITE the complete absence of forerunners in the art of jazz steel-drum playing, Molineaux says he was influenced by a wide range of musicians.

"I grew up listening to all the greats — pianists like George Shearing and Bill Evans, and [saxophonist] John Coltrane — but I really had to create my own

style." And, when it comes to the steel pans, forging a style is not simply a matter of mastering steel percussion and searching for new ways to play it. One of the unique features of this particular instrument is that each drum is made by a specific craftsman, or pan tuner, who builds each individual steel drum with its own sequence of notes. As a result, each player can generate sound based on his personal concept of harmonic structure.

Since its invention in Trinidad in the 1940s, the steel drum has been identified with Caribbean music and, as Molineaux explains, "people like the romantic sound of the steel drum. But there was the possibility of being either a spontaneous or a conventional player, and I chose to try to arouse interest — an intellectual interest — in the instrument by using it for jazz."

But the steel drum is surely not an instrument one would normally associate with jazz. Molineaux rejects this suggestion outright: "The drum is a very chromatic instrument — all the notes are there — so I don't see any reason why you shouldn't play jazz on it."

He points out that, as the steel drum is not an inherently coherent instrument, the player is left to make up his own rules. Molineaux explains that the piano, for example, involves a great deal of finger interplay and chromatics which help the pianist to perform and to create the notes, "and there are plenty of other pianists whose styles you can follow."

But the steel drum has no established patterns of operation. Doesn't this make steel-drum playing that much more difficult? "Yes," concurs Molineaux, "but that's the most interesting thing about it."

HAVING already migrated from his native Trinidad to the Virgin Islands at the age of 30, Molineaux decided to upgrade his market potential by moving to Florida in the early '70s.

If he had any illusions about the promise of the US, he was soon brought down to earth with a rude bump. "I was playing a new instrument, jazz isn't really a popular form of music, and didn't even have a market to play to — that was rough." Still, Molineaux set to his formidable task and was soon playing his steel drums at a motley variety of venues all over the country, and also began recording with established stars on the American jazz circuit.

Bassist Jaco Pastorius and Jamaican-born pianist Monty Alexander were among the first to welcome Molineaux into the local jazz community and today the list of leading jazz players with whom he has collaborated almost reads like a Who's Who of the cream of the global jazz community.

Considering that until recently



Steel-drum maestro Othello Molineaux and pianist Silvano Monasterios (below) strut their stuff in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

the steel drum was confined exclusively to the Caribbean and to West Indian communities dotted around the western world, musical synergies with the likes of Dizzy Gillespie, Pastorius, Herbie Hancock, Art Blakey and Joe Zawinul represent no mean feat.

But it hasn't been roses all the way, and one of the most difficult decisions Molineaux encountered in making the transition from the piano to the steel pans was to give up the former and devote himself entirely to the art of steel percussion.

"Yes, it was a great sacrifice," he recalls. "At the time, I thought that to do what I wanted to do with the instrument I had to devote myself to it entirely." However, his championing of the jazz steel drum has left its mark on the music-loving public, as well as on professional practitioners of jazz.

"Now, the steel drum is well established," says Molineaux. "But back when I was trying to create a market for it, it seemed like such a humongous task." He even admits that he contemplated giving up the steel drums at one time.

Thankfully, he stuck to his drums.

Several decades and over 20 albums later, Molineaux maintains a sober attitude toward the plu-



dit he has received over the past two decades — including the 1993 Best Jazz Album award by the Miami-based *New Times* for his *It's About Time* CD, a couple of Grammy nominations, and even a commendation by the Ohio House of Representatives, in 1987, for his contribution to music. "It's the instrument which is important," he says altruistically.

Today, Molineaux's gigs are greeted with abundant enthusiasm and interest, and local jazz and world music fans stand to enjoy a rare treat when Molineaux, together with Venezuelan pianist Silvano Monasterios, struts his stuff in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv this week.

"I'm looking forward to it," says Molineaux, "it's gonna be fun."

about art, entertainment and commercialism. Starts at 8:30. Call (02) 560-5755.

Ethnic Week continues through Sunday at the Jerusalem Music Center, with the theme *A Window to Musical Cultures*. The program features master classes, workshops, illustrated lectures, traditional food tastings, ethnographic exhibitions of traditional clothing, jewelry, crafts etc. Daily from 10 to 5 p.m. Call (02) 623-4347 for details.

The Israel Museum is also in on the jazz mania and is offering *The Voice and the Instrument: International Jazz Series*. Tonight it's French musicians Laika Fapien on vocals and Jean Loup L'Ongon on trumpet at the Springer Auditorium at 8:30. (02) 670-5985.

Definitely take advantage of the warm trend and head out to the Pargod for a Friday jam session, where a mere NIS 10 brings in the first drink and the music goes on until Shabbat. Starts at 1:30 p.m., 94 Bezalel. Call (02) 623-2646.

On Saturday night Pargod starts right up again, with *World Music from Close By*. The Working

Souls play a potluck of ethnic music with the tantalizing combination of a flute, a cello, percussion and the ubiquitous guitar and bass. Starts at 9:30.

And Points Beyond

Rock 'n' roll will be the theme tonight at the incongruously named Opera House Club that is hosting an evening called *The Revolution is Coming Soon*. Call (050) 240-538 for details.

The popular and stirring Fringe play *Before the Bride Chokes* was featured last fall in Acre's alternative theater festival to wide acclaim. Haifa is the lucky host of this work tonight at the Theater Club, starting at 8:30 p.m.

The Pajama Game is also in Haifa tonight at the Haifa Theater, starting at 8:30. (04) 825-1475. But the crowning glory of the weekend is the winter Jazz Festival in Ashdod, which begins tonight. Catch the Avraham Felder Big Band, Danny Sagy, Leonid Patchka and Freeway from New York among others. Takes place at the Ashdod Auditorium at 8:30.

Not just a movie conflict

By PATRICK GOLDSTEIN

I only took one glance at Edward Norton, stripped down to sweat-pants and sneakers, playing pick-up basketball at Venice Beach, to make it obvious that *American History X* would be no ordinary movie. It wasn't the star's shaved head that grabbed your attention.

It was the tattoos. His chest was decorated with a Nazi swastika, his shoulder with an Iron Cross. His biceps bulged with a Nazi war eagle. On his forearm was the inscription: "White Power." On his back was "DOC," short for Disciples of Christ, an Aryan white-supremacy group. As Norton dribbled the ball down court, you noticed something else — his team was all white, the opposing team all black.

Racial taunts echoed back and forth as director Tony Kaye filmed the players jockeying for position under the basket. This wasn't just a game of basketball. It's a battle for turf. After Norton wins the game with an easy layup, he made his attitude clear. "Get off my (expletive) court!" he told the opposing team. "This is my house!"

During a break in filming, Kaye struggled to explain the point of this particular scene. Finally, a simple answer comes to mind: "It's about hate," he said. "Hate and anger."

In Hollywood, controversy is often nothing more than a marketing tool. But *American History X*, opening here tonight, has emerged as one of the hot-topic films of the year, though not for the reasons New Line Cinema had intended when it began shooting the film early last year.

Written by 30-year-old screenwriter David McKenna, *American History X* had all the makings of a must-see movie that would inspire the sort of stormy op-ed page debate enjoyed by such films as *JFK* and *The People vs. Larry Flynt*. Raw and inflammatory, it cast Norton as a virulent white supremacist imprisoned for killing two black youths who tried to steal his truck. When he emerges from prison, he's a changed man. But can Norton stop his hate-filled younger brother, who's already writing worrisome accounts of *Mein Kampf* for his history class, from following in his footsteps?

The film is anything but politically correct. Its dialogue is laced with profanity directed at blacks, immigrants and Jews. It features a graphic scene in which a Norton-led skin-

head posse trashes a Korean-owned food market. Many viewers will no doubt be disturbed by Norton's racist character, who, even before he has a change of heart, is easily the most charismatic character in the film.

BUT when the film was released last October, its impact was undermined by an ugly, very public spitting match between New Line and Kaye, a conceptual artist turned TV commercial director who has been as angry and unpredictable as any of the characters in his movie.

There were arguments on and off the set, as well as bitter rewrite and editing battles, which culminated in two edited versions of the film, one Kaye's, the other Norton's. New Line test-screened a version of the movie that incorporated many of the changes made by Norton.

The screening went so well that New Line Productions President Mike De Luca and New Line Cinema Chairman Bob Shaye had a meeting with Kaye where they tried to persuade him to let New Line release the film in its current form. That was the moment when events began to spiral out of control. Incensed, Kaye threatened to take his name off the film.

Wounded by what he saw as a New Line betrayal, Kaye began a series of increasingly bizarre and combative actions that eventually destroyed any possibility of an amicable solution.

First came the now-legendary Hollywood trade ads, which quoted everyone from John Lennon to Patanjali, the Indian founder of yoga. Some of the ads were clearly designed to shame New Line, including one that quoted Edmund Burke as saying: "All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win in the world is for enough good men to do nothing." Kaye lost his battle to have his name removed from the film's credits — he had suggested "Humpty Dumpty at one point — but realized that his vexing behavior earned him little sympathy in bottom-line-oriented Hollywood, where he was viewed more as a loopy publicity seeker than an imperiled artist.

"People think I'm mad," he said at the time. "But outsiders like me are always seen as being crazy. It's only after we're dead that people finally say, 'You know, he actually made a lot of sense.'"

In the event Kaye has been vindicated, sort of. Norton has a Best Actor nomination in next week's Oscars. (Los Angeles Times)

Music on my mind

Poet Ronny Someck moves to that different drummer

"People used to ask me where I want to go in life, and I would answer, 'when I get back, I'll know where I've been.'"

Ronny Someck will have lots of stories to tell when he "gets back" from this metaphorical journey.

His work has been translated into 20 languages; he has created exhibits with visual artists, written children's books, and in 1989 won the Prime Minister's Prize. Most recently, a CD he created with the American avant-garde "multi-instrumentalist" musician Elliot Sharp, entitled *Revenge of the Shattering Child*, was chosen by *Wired* magazine as the disc of the year.

"When you publish a poem, everybody sees it in relation to his own history; but the hope is that they will also see something more universal," he says.

Poets observe and bring the meaning of events to the observers; they reveal something about the world that the observer couldn't have otherwise articulated, with words that come together in almost a "magical" way, Someck says.

Combining his poetry with Sharp's music was a natural step which has — judging from their overflowing venues in the last few weeks — landed him no small measure of success.

Someck pays tribute to the five musicians who have influenced him the most.

1. **Elliot Sharp** "Sharp's music is like a boxing glove. It has the tough leather of the glove, but it doesn't neglect the soft underside. Sometimes I feel that he writes his notes not on a sheet of paper, but on a sheet of glass; he loves the narrow space between the beauty of the glass, and ability of the same glass to draw blood..."

2. **Om Kalthom** "She is the vocal line to my childhood. My grandfather would take me every morning to the coffee shop, and on the great phonograph, we heard only her. Her voice drew pictures in my mind of jungles where one is easily trapped, and must wait in fear to be devoured by the lion's great teeth."

"Om Kalthom was at that time the 'voice of the enemy,' the singer of



Abdel Nasser. My parents listened to her anyway; they believed that music has no passport; they believed that her voice shouldn't have borders.

"Today, I listen to her both for nostalgia, and because I am starting to know all the trees in the jungle of her voice."

3. **Henry Rollins** "Rollins is a poet and a singer. He is a musician who isn't scared to smell the trash can. On one hand, it's hard to dance the tango to his music. On the other hand, it is easy to dance the tango to his music on the condition that you imagine the floor as a floor of fire."

4. **Eric Clapton** "At age 16, I had no words under the listing 'guitar' in my private rock 'n' roll dictionary. There was a picture of Eric Clapton's guitar. Clapton proved that the guitar is a locomotive, to which everyone can hitch his own private car of associations. His guitar carries everything."

5. **Yair Datal** "When I hear Yair Datal, I feel that there is no need to look for my roots, because I've never lost them. Datal's roots are planted very firmly in Eastern ground. He ranks with the great Iraqi players and manages to leave his distinct impression on each note."

"His music is like steps in the desert sands. The land knows to gauge who is treading on it with a harsh step and who treads with a loving gait. Datal's footsteps are tread with love." — Dalila Scheindlin

After Hours returns next week.

Hot tip

Tel Aviv

In answer to the seemingly endless stream of musicians from other parts of the world, Tel Aviv shows its local talent this weekend with some of the best performers on the pop music scene. Corraie Allal wields her lusty yet melodic voice tonight with Eran Tzur at the Theater Club in Jaffa, 12 Sderot Yerushalayim. Starts at 10 p.m. Call (03) 527-9798. The same venue offers another heavy-weight on Saturday night when Ehad Banai gives a concert with material from his newest album.

Banai's rich mix of percussion, ethnic influences and probing lyrics are uplifting and contemplative at the same time. Starts at 9:30.

Meanwhile, the Barbie is fast making a name for itself as a major venue for promoting young and often new artists in the Israeli pop/rock scene. Tonight the wide-open space at 40 Salame Street features *Infectia* at 10.

Of course, it wouldn't be a weekend without just a few foreign visitors. Tonight, honored guests rule the jazz options: Tony Pearson plays funky jazz, hip-hop and R&B to the vocal accompaniment of Liat Ben-Simon at the extremely civilized venue of the Habimah Heineken Club. Starts at 10:30 p.m. Call (03) 528-5222.

Next up is the World Jazz series which hits the Tel Aviv Museum tonight. Othello Molineaux offers his tempting and original steel-drum virtuoso performance, accompanied by Silvano Monasterios on the piano. Starts at 9. (03) 696-1297. For anyone too lazy to go out after a work

day, the show will be repeated tomorrow night at 9:30.

Excitement is also to be found at the theater tonight, as Beit Lessin opens with an original new play, *Jacko*, starring the beloved Moshe Ivgy as the loser of the title. Starts at 8:30. Call (03) 694-1111.

Literary types will be pleased by the Geshet adaptation of Dostoyevsky's *The Idiot*, which will be performed this evening at the newly occupied Noga Theater on 9 Yerushalayim in Jaffa. At 8:30. Call (03) 560-0783.

Anybody who is still unsatiated is invited to view *Labor of Life*, a classic work by Hanech Levin. This Beit Lessin production, which is visiting the Eretz Israel Museum in Ramat Aviv tonight, starts at 8:30. (03) 643-6888

Jerusalem

Jerusalem is competing for the best theater event of the weekend with the opening of another new play at the Sherover Theater. A team effort between the Khan Theater and the Jerusalem Theater, *Sky* is a comedy-drama

perspective

Weekender Food & Drink



Try it fried

By STEPHANIE WITT SEDGWICK

My croissants are flaky. My jam gels. My pot roast is tender. But despite numerous attempts, I just could never make fried chicken that satisfied me. My chicken was either soggy and overcooked or crispy brown and raw at the bone.

What was I missing? Turns out, I wasn't listening to the chicken. "Let the chicken talk to you," says Damon Lee Fowler, author of *Fried Chicken: The World's Best Recipes From Memphis to Milan, From Buffalo to Bangkok* (Broadway, \$15).

You can flour the chicken, batter it, deep-fry it, pan-fry it, stand over it, cover it. But if you don't hear a sizzle you're in trouble.

It sounds silly at first, but it makes sense. Many recipes will tell you how long to cook the chicken. In time you will learn by listening. When the chicken is cooked through, the sizzle sound will start to lessen. That's the moment to take it out.

The sizzle is the steam hitting the fat. The steam is produced when moisture in the chicken reacts to the heat.

You want to take out the chicken before all the moisture is gone.

The hot fat gives you a crisp crust. Removing the chicken while it's still sizzling assures an almost-greaseless crust outside and moist chicken inside. In a word - perfect.

So now I knew about the sizzle, but I still had a host of other questions. Did the chicken need to be deep-fried or would pan-frying do? How should I bread the chicken pieces?

Did I need a special pan? What kind of fat?

To have sizzle, you must have hot fat. So you should choose a fat that has a high smoking point - you need a high temperature to get a crisp crust. Southern recipes traditionally use lard, but many now call for peanut oil or vegetable shortening.

Fowler recommends against vegetable shortening - it has a lower smoking point than most vegetable oils. Chicken cooked in shortening will end up being cooked at lower temperatures, which means more fat absorption and greasier chicken.

Fowler suggests using peanut oil, and it worked wonderfully. Peanut oil has a high smoking point and will withstand the high heat. In addition, it doesn't impart any unwanted flavor to the chicken.

Keep in mind that you will have to closely monitor the temperature of whatever fat you use. So a reliable candy/deep-fat thermometer in your frying pan is essential.

Also, adding the cold chicken pieces lowers the temperature of the fat in the pan, so it pays to keep the thermometer in the fat and periodically check it. Adjust the heat under the pan up or down as needed.

But whatever fat you choose, don't try to save it for another day. "Once you've used the fat, it's contaminated with protein and

sugar that cause overbrowning," explains Corriher. And overbrowning is what prompts you to pull the chicken out of the fat before it's cooked through.

FAST-FOOD restaurants often deep-fry their chicken and it tastes great, but most home recipes call for frying in a shallow pan.

"People are afraid to deep-fry at home," says John Martin Taylor, author of *The Fearless Frying Cookbook* (Workman, 1997). "But it's easy. All you need is a deep pot, a thermometer and clean oil. A pot filled with enough oil to completely cover the chicken pieces should be deep enough so that the oil never fills the pot more than halfway.

Or you may choose a deep-fat fryer - a special pot made just for frying. Because it runs on a thermostat, you won't need to monitor it as closely - the pot will keep the oil at whatever temperature you set.

Whether cooked in a deep pot or a special fryer, deep-fried chicken will get crispier than pan-fried and will stay crisp longer. For picnic chicken, it's the way to go.

But for eating the chicken hot at home, Taylor likes to pan-fry. He covers the pan for the first 10 minutes of the cooking time. "It's a bit greasier than deep-frying, but the chicken is delicious this way," I tried it, and even though I found it extremely scary to cover a pan filled with hot fat, I loved the results. The chicken was very moist.

Any good-quality deep pot will work for deep-frying, but pan-frying is different. People swear by cast-iron pans.

They take a long time to heat up and conversely, a long time to cool down. This means that the fat will stay at a more-constant temperature in cast iron than in conventional aluminum or stainless-steel pans. And when you're frying, even temperatures are exactly what you want.

THERE are dozens of fried-chicken variations, but the basic recipe involves simply washing and drying the chicken pieces then coating them with seasoned flour. And the chicken is pretty good this way, especially deep-fried. The skin gets crisp and the meat inside is moist. It's also fast, easy and not very messy.

Just heat the fat and carefully, using tongs, put the floured chicken pieces into the fat. Tongs are essential: Use them to move the chicken in and out of the fat.

If you're used to fast-food chicken, you'll probably prefer more crust. You can use a batter to coat the chicken, which, as Fowler points out, "was considered the nicest and most elegant breading for fried chicken in the South for many years."

I preferred soaking and dredging to using a batter. The batter produced a coating that I thought might be better on onion rings, but it's a matter of personal preference.

In fact, apart from the basics of cooking fried chicken - coat the

chicken, keep the fat hot and don't cook past the sizzling point - the rest is up to you. Cooks have their own little tricks. Cracker-crumbs, crushed cornflakes and chopped nuts can all be used instead of seasoned flour.

Various spices can be added to the flour. And that's only the beginning. Chicken is fried many different ways around the world.

Like all cooking, it's about experience - trying and trying again. Anderson has burned herself out of lots of foods by testing and retesting recipes, but fried chicken isn't one of them. "It's the one food I just can't get enough of," And hard as it is to believe, you really will learn to listen to the chicken.

Additional Tips:
- Have a wire cooling rack set over a rimmed baking pan ready. As you take the chicken pieces out of the fat, place them on the rack. Any excess oil will drain away from the chicken and onto the baking pan.

- If you are cooking the chicken in batches, keep the finished pieces warm in a low (100° or less) oven.

- To reheat fried chicken, heat clean oil to 190°. Carefully lower the pieces into the oil, frying them until just warmed through, one or two minutes.

- Whether frying or refrying, be careful: The fat is very hot. Do not leave it unattended. Wear long sleeves. And move the chicken gently in and out of the fat. Never use your hands. Always use long-handled tongs.

REAL SOUTHERN DEEP-FRIED CHICKEN

I'm not about to say how many people use little chicken will feed, but if you fry only one, you'll not have leftovers.

1 frying chicken cut into 8-10 pieces, with skin

Oil for deep-frying

1 cup flour

1 tsp. salt

1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper or paprika

Wash the chicken with cold water, drain it well and pat it completely dry. Put enough oil in a large heavy pot to totally cover the chicken pieces (they should float in the fat). Place the pot over medium-high heat, and heat it to 190° C. Place a wire rack on a baking sheet and set it aside.

Combine the flour, salt, black pepper and cayenne in a heavy paper bag and shake to mix. Add the chicken pieces 1 at a time, shaking to coat.

When the fat reaches 190°, use tongs to lower the chicken into the fat 1 piece at a time. Do not crowd the pot, and keep the temperature steady.

Fry the chicken, turning the pieces, if necessary, so they brown evenly, until it is golden brown and tender, about 20 mins. (depending on the size of the pieces). As they are done, transfer the chicken pieces to the wire rack. Use a slotted spoon or a wire mesh strainer to remove any debris from the fat; then continue frying

the rest of the chicken. Serve hot, warm or at room temperature. (Serves 3-4)

SOUTHERN BATTER-FRIED CHICKEN

This recipe is from Fried Chicken: The World's Best Recipes From Memphis to Milan, From Buffalo to Bangkok by Damon Lee Fowler. Batter-fried chicken is not as common as it used to be in the South, but it was once considered the most elegant way of frying a chicken.

Traditionally, this chicken is pan-fried, but I find it easier to deep-fry batter-coated food.

1 cup flour

1 tsp. baking powder

1 tsp. salt, plus additional for soaking chicken

ground white pepper to taste

freshly grated nutmeg to taste

1 large egg

1 1/2 cups water

1 small frying chicken, skinned

and cut up for frying

peanut or other oil, for frying

Sift the flour, baking powder, 1 tsp. salt, several liberal grindings of white pepper and a few generous grating of nutmeg into a mixing bowl. In a separate bowl, beat the egg until it is foamy, then beat in the water. Make a well in the center of the flour mixture and pour in the egg-water mixture. Gradually whisk the flour into the liquid until it forms a smooth batter. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 mins.

Wash the chicken under cold running water and pat it in a large glass or stainless-steel bowl. Add a very small handful of salt and enough cold water to cover the chicken completely. Toss until the salt is dissolved and then set aside to soak for 30 mins.

Preheat the oven to about 90°. Fit a wire cooling rack over a cookie sheet. Fill a Dutch oven or deep-fat fryer with enough oil to come halfway up the sides of the pan.

Over medium-high heat, bring the fat to 190° (hot but not smoking). Meanwhile, drain the chicken and pat it dry. Lightly stir the batter.

Add the chicken to the batter, coating it completely. Beginning with the dark-meat pieces, lift the chicken out 1 piece at a time, letting the excess batter flow back into the bowl. Then slip the batter-covered pieces into the fat.

Repeat until the pot is full but not crowded. Fry until lightly browned and well sealed, about 5 mins.

Reduce the heat. Fry the chicken, turning only once, until it is cooked through and golden brown, about 20 mins. longer.

Lift the chicken from the fat, letting the fat drain from it completely, and transfer it to the wire rack. If you are frying a second batch, place the cooked chicken in the warm oven until all of the chicken is fried. Serve hot or at room temperature. (Serves 3-4)

(The Washington Post)



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Phyllis's Tips

famous for his wit and whimsy. There are two different puzzles, each with 204 pieces that make up a 34x24 cm puzzle.

The deal applies to Tomato Soup with Pasta, Chicken Soup with Noodles, Rich Vegetable Soup, Rich Mushroom Soup and Rich Onion Soup. The contents of the soup packets have been increased by 30% with no price change.

The cost of the puzzle package plus soups is NIS 14.20. It's a good deal if you like the soups.

Tal ve Tari Tomato Juice (Good)

You can't make a good Bloody Mary without good tomato juice, and now a new and quite tasty one is made by Tal ve Tari, manufacturers of canned tomatoes, tomato paste and other tomato products. The company also supplies raw materials to Sainsbury and Heinz in Britain, and Kagami, a Japanese concern.

The new juice is 100% natural, and not made from concentrate. Recommended price: NIS 5 per carton (biodegradable - better ecological choice than bottled or canned).

Here's their recipe for a Bloody Mary: 100 ml tomato juice 50 ml vodka 2-3 drops of Tabasco sauce

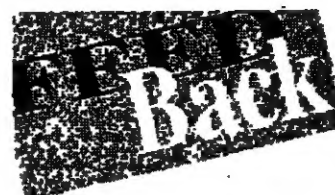
Worcestershire sauce to taste 1 tsp. lemon juice black pepper to taste

Tupperware for Kids (Good)
Next to the Avon lady, Americans can tell you that at-home sales of Tupperware are an American institution. Although the company sells in many countries throughout the world, they've been pleasantly surprised at the tremendous success of Tupperware in Israel. Now that there are more Tupperware hostesses in Israel than ever before, the company has decided on a little PR to encourage sales.

Their latest venture is into a line of Disney cups, storage boxes, dishes and lunch boxes designed for kids. Among the line: A lunch box sells for NIS 72; canteen with a hermetic seal NIS 50; a make-your-own poppable maker NIS 45; cups with tops, NIS 21; and a child's eating-utensil set, NIS 11.

The lunch boxes are good for kindergartners, but are too bulky for schoolchildren to take to school along with their heavy backpacks. They may be handy for school trips.

The sturdy plastic containers with well-stamped design and hermetic seals are handy to have around, if you want to refrigerate unfinished beverages.



By PHYLLIS GLAZER

Are you familiar with a hot spice mix known as s'hug? My brother in New York state has requested the list of ingredients that go to make this up. Would you be able to find a recipe for this condiment? He has even searched the Internet.

Leslie Smith, Kfar Sava
I used to have a recipe for s'hug from an old Yemenite restaurant, but since I can't find it, I'll have to share with you a similar one that I found in *Spices* by Jill Norman:

2 small mild red peppers
2-3 fresh red chilies
a handful of coriander leaves
1 1/2 Tbsp. ground coriander
6 cloves garlic
seeds from 6 green cardamoms
1-2 tsp. lemon juice

Finely chop the red peppers and

chilies, removing the seeds. Chop the coriander leaves. Blend or pound all the ingredients to a paste and store in a jar in the refrigerator for up to two weeks.

Could you possibly furnish us with the telephone number of O.K. Importers in Ramat Gan? We are desperate for an all-gas stove.

Michaela Gorodetzer, Jerusalem

The number you're looking for is (03) 570-7191. O.K. is located on 16 Hakishon Street, Bnei Brak. I personally would never buy a non-gas stove top (except as a back-up) although I believe in electric (turbo) ovens.

Remember that when you bake with gas, you have to switch the baking pans on the shelves for uniform baking (like when you're baking cookies). The turbo keeps the heat even throughout the oven and there is no need to switch top-to-bottom/bottom-to-top.

My husband and I suffer from both diabetes and high cholesterol, and would like to learn how to substitute oil for margarine and artificial sweeteners

for sugar, but my substitutions don't always work out. Can you recommend a book that could help us, or give us a recipe for cookies that is appropriate?

Yehudit Gershon, Kfar Hanagid

The substitution of oil for margarine or butter works best with cakes rather than cookies, and since sugar contributes not only sweetness but also texture to baked goods, it's no wonder that you've had a problem.

I suggest you contact the Israel Diabetes Association. (03) 573-2445. Through them you can get a book on cooking with a few recipes for baked goods. The book *L'la Sugar* also sells in bookstores for NIS 95, but it is less expensive if you get it through them (with a discount for members - NIS 80).

Phyllis Glazer can be contacted at The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000, or by e-mail: phyllisglazer@post.co.il.

Do not send stamped, self-addressed envelopes as inquiries cannot be answered individually. Feedback also appears in The Jerusalem Post Magazine on Fridays.

Brighten up Brussels sprouts

By NISS BAKSHI

Brussels sprouts are often going to be the star of the party. They're the weak member of the vegetable pack, the one everyone likes to pick out.

Brussels sprouts are "weird looking," like miniature cabbages. Maybe that's why they're usually shoved away in some dark corner of the produce market.

Unlike broccoli, which is also weird-looking but seems to be in your face every time you turn around, they'll never gain acceptance, merely through familiarity.

What's more, brussels sprouts are ugly and they smell bad. Well, that's not exactly accurate. To be more precise: When brussels sprouts are overcooked, they turn olive drab and smell like sulfur.

Here's why those unpleasant things happen.

Like all cruciferous vegetables, brussels sprouts are high in chemical compounds that, when exposed to heat for a sufficient amount of time, produce hydrogen sulfide (as a general rule, any chemical compound with the word "sulfur" in it is going to smell very bad).

Cabbage does it (quite famously, if you read periodicals about Irish tenements in New York). Cauliflower does it. Broccoli will do it, too, if it's cooked long enough.

The color change is related to the smell. Technically, brussels sprouts are high in chlorophyll-b, which when heated turns into pheophytin-b. Chlorophyll-b is bright yellowish-green. Pheophytin-b is not (Chlorophyll-a, which is blue-green, similarly turns to pheophytin-a).

This change happens especially quickly when the chlorophyll is heated in the presence of an acid - and most green vegetables give off acid during the cooking process.

For this reason, never cook green vegetables with the lid

on the steaming pot. Instead, use the steaming function of the pot with the lid off, and vent the steam out.

In addition, what is more important, brussels sprouts are colorless before they are cooked. That's because the heat of the sun bleaches the chlorophyll out of the outside of the sprout, leaving it yellow at the heart.

What you do with them after that is up to you, of course.

They're delicious, simply dressed with olive oil and a little chopped garlic. But they're also so acidic that they can be a little harsh on the stomach.

For brussels sprouts with a smoky, things like smoked meat or hard cheese.

And, when you're using smoked meat, it's usually a good idea to add something sharp, like vinegar, to cut the fat.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS AND SMOKED MEAT

1 lb. brussels sprouts
100 g. smoked meat
2 cups white vinegar
salt to taste

Wash sprouts, remove outer leaves, and trim the stems. Cut the stems into small pieces (about 1 cm).

Steam sprouts over rapidly boiling water for 10 minutes, until tender. Drain and pat dry.

Meanwhile, cut the smoked meat into small pieces (about 1 cm). Add the meat to the sprouts and stir well.

While sprouts steam, cut meat into small pieces. Cook in skillet over medium heat, until browned. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Combine the sprouts and meat. Add vinegar and salt to taste. Stir well. Serve hot.

(The Jerusalem Post)

Biking by the lake

Weekender Travel



Completing the 55-km. track around Lake Kinneret sometimes feels like an uphill battle.

(Richard Press)

By VIVA SARAH PRESS

Our plan was to cycle the 55 km. around Lake Kinneret before the summer heat set in.

I am extremely out of shape and had my doubts as to whether I would be able to complete the ride (four hours, not counting sightseeing stops).

But I set out, nonetheless, with three others on a sunny Friday.

As long as it didn't rain, we reasoned, we'd be okay.

Sandwiched between the rolling green hills of the Golan and the shimmering blue water,

the road around the lake is very picturesque. We passed banana groves, avocado orchards and rows of brilliantly colored purple, orange and red bougainvillea.

Our mountain bikes, rented for NIS 35 each from a Tiberias hostel, helped us plow over the gravel shoulders and dirt patches along those parts of the highway under construction.

Embarrassingly, it took me about four hours to bike to Kibbutz Ein Gev, just over half way, or 30 km. from Tiberias.

There are no photographs to prove I actually rode my bike at

least halfway around the lake. There are, however, pictures of me beside my bike, pushing it up a hill, and posing at Capernaum.

Though I did not make it around the lake in its entirety, the trail I managed to cover was scenic and interesting – a very enjoyable ride.

OUR first stop after leaving Tiberias and heading clockwise around the lake was Tabgha. Here the Church of the Primacy of St. Peter marks the spot where Jesus made Peter the "Shepherd of his People."

The church is built around a rock said to be the table of a feast

described in the gospel of John in the New Testament.

The story goes that Peter led the apostles on a fishing trip just offshore from Tabgha. A man – who they later found out was Jesus – shouted to them to throw their nets over the starboard.

As soon as the nets hit the water, a school of fish swam in. When Peter got to shore, he found Jesus preparing a meal for the 12 apostles.

The site, just off the main highway surrounding the lake, is well kept; entrance to the church is free.

We spent about 15 minutes looking around before a swarm of tourists descended from their tour bus. Back on our bikes, we rode two km. to Capernaum for another site-seeing stop.

Capernaum, Kfar Nahum in Hebrew, is said to be the birthplace of Peter. The ruins of a 5th-century octagonal church cover the site, believed to be where Peter's house once stood. This site is unique because it is the only place where a church and synagogue stood side by side, considering the tension between Jews and Christians under Byzantine rule, their proximity seems remarkable.

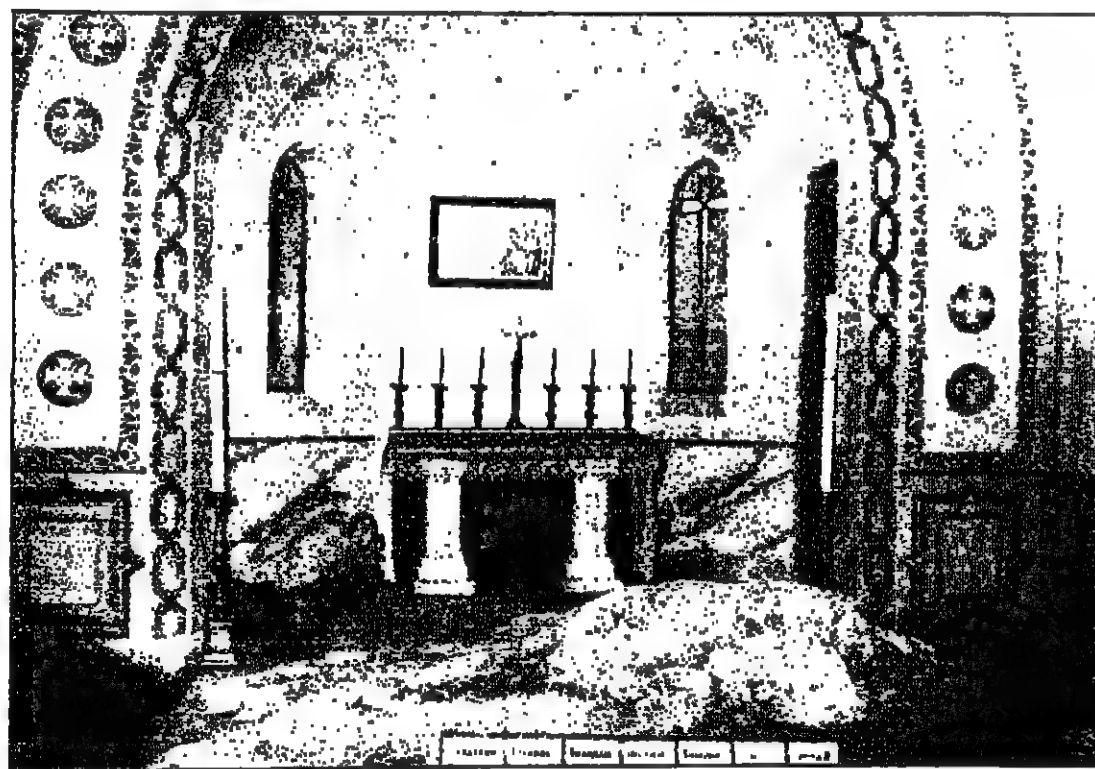
The church served as a meeting place for believers during Christianity's formative years. One hundred and thirty-one inscriptions in Greek, Aramaic, Syrian, and Latin, many including Jesus's name, have been discovered in the plaster. The church is the only building in Kfar Nahum found with a mosaic floor, a fragment of which is on display.

In the 7th century, the town was apparently abandoned and the site forgotten until the Franciscans bought the land in the late 19th century. They excavated and restored the synagogue and the church; recently they built the



The ruins of a 5th-century octagonal church cover the site at Capernaum.

(David Rubinger)



The Church of the Primacy of St. Peter is built around a rock said to be the table of a feast described in the gospel of John in the New Testament.

modern octagonal church over the site of St. Peter's house.

Capernaum, a five-minute ride off the main road, is situated amid beautifully manicured gardens. Modern dress is required, and there is an entrance fee.

There are actually four major Christian sites in this area. The other two, which we did not check out, are the Mount of Beatitudes and the Church of the Multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes, where Jesus is said to have given his Sermon on the Mount. Today a church marks the site. The Church of the Multiplication boasts a mosaic relating how Jesus fed 5,000 pilgrims with only five loaves and two small fish (Matthew 15:29-30).

WHILE an experienced cyclist would surely shrug indifferently at the inclines along the highway, my shin and knees did much more than that. The ride, while mostly

flat, has ascents and descents (the latter great fun to ride down).

By Dugit Beach, the first of many beaches lining the eastern shoreline, my knees started to buckle. We stopped at a gas station/kiosk for lunch and a rest.

Realizing I was not going to make it back to Tiberias, we split up. My brother, Richard, and our friend, Seiji, set out at a faster pace to finish the circle of the Kinneret. My future sister-in-law, Marlene, and I slowed down and biked to Kibbutz Ein Gev, where we had planned to take the ferry back to Tiberias.

Unfortunately, we missed it. While in the summer ferries make a regular run between the kibbutz and Tiberias, winter service is irregular, usually limited to large groups.

WE could have called the hostel to come and get us, since all the hostels that rent bikes – which is

most of them – also offer to pick up stranded cyclists (the going rate for a pickup being NIS 60). But we opted to wait for my brother, and rode into Kibbutz Ein Gev.

The kibbutz, situated between the Golan Heights and the eastern shores of Lake Kinneret, has a famous fish restaurant and sailing club. We picked a nice grassy spot overlooking the water and collapsed for about an hour.

During the drive back to Tiberias, the sun was setting over the water, and the Golan Heights were a bright shade of red. Although my body was aching, the day had been an exciting adventure, one I wouldn't have missed.

Bicycles can be rented from most hostels for NIS 35-60 per day. Hostel Aviv, Nahum Hostel and the Maman hostel are well stocked. Nahum Hostel also rents tandem bicycles.

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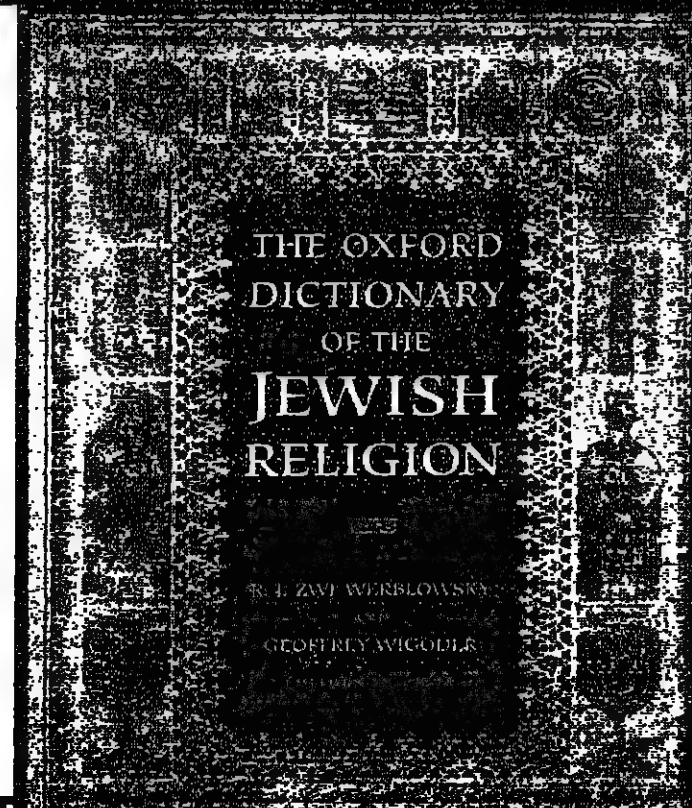
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Weekender Leisure



The Israeli male, circa 2000

Flair

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

Many people who watch those fast-paced, no-halt fashion shows on TV are frustrated by the fact that they get only the vaguest idea of style, and absolutely no conception of detail. But unless you're sitting in the front row of a live fashion show, you won't get to see much more than you do on TV. With the models often dancing or moving rapidly in time to the music, it's a miracle that you can even determine skirt length, let alone detail like pin-tucking.

Men's fashion shows are even worse, because the range of garments is that much smaller. So all you get is a bunch of models moving quickly up and down the runway, doing very little to demonstrate revolutionary changes in revers on jackets, and even less to indicate that pants might be cuffed, or otherwise.

It's a far cry from the fashion shows you see in reruns of 1950s movies, where the models move gracefully among the viewers, allowing them to take note of silhouette shapes and reach out and feel the texture of the fabrics.

WHICH is why the recent showing of the Bagir summer collection at Tel Aviv's Country Club was such a delightful surprise.

A runway? Quick struts? There weren't any.

Instead, men of varying ages and hirsuteness clustered in twos, threes, fours and fives in various parts of a huge room. They looked



The Bagir summer collection: the suits that make the local man

perfectly at ease in their Pierre Balmain, Passport and Bagir total look or mix-and-match suits.

Curiously, all the suits were single-breasted, though, according to Bagir general manager Moshe Langlieb, double-breasted suits will be a hit for winter 2000.

Bagir, which is now owned by Clal, is undergoing a whole new strategy and concept. The company has divested itself of its retail stores. These, while maintaining the original parent company's Polgar name, have been taken over by Kitan.

While Kitan does stock Bagir suits and sepa-

rates in its Polgar stores, it's no longer a given. Bagir has to compete with all the other labels on the market.

THE most prestigious of Bagir's three brand names is Pierre Balmain, a finely tailored French design whose style and quality of fabric exude quiet luxury. Bagir has the local franchise for manufacturing Pierre Balmain and hopes to convince Israeli yuppies that clothes do indeed make the man.

Passport is more softly tailored than Pierre Balmain, hovering somewhere between casual and formal, while Bagir features classic tailoring which can be easily adapted to a less formal look.

Since it's now become very fashionable to wear a tee-shirt with a suit rather than a shirt and tie, said designer Deganit Jitomerski, suit jackets are buttoning higher than they used to — not to hide the tee-shirt, but to give it more focus.

No one really takes much notice of a tee-shirt when you can see a lot of it, Jitomerski explained. But when there's just a little of it

rising from a high buttoned vest or jacket, it becomes an instant attention-getter.

Although there were a few white shirts, the trend was toward tone-on-tone to blend with grey, beige, brown, navy and black.

The Pierre Balmain suit, said Langlieb, is for the cosmopolitan man who wants to exude a Parisian aura.

Bagir is the suit that gives pride to men who want to wear Made in Israel, while Passport, he declared, is aspiring to a revolution in yuppieism.

The generation that not so long ago wore Levi's will eventually become the first-class passengers on airlines, and will dress differently, he predicted.

Their clothes will be more worldly, more urbane, more colorful. Many young people today have the wherewithal to spend NIS1,500-NIS 2,000 for a suit. It's great for their image.

Added Yehoshua Saguy, Bagir's local marketing manager, "The tailored suit was something psychologically difficult for Israelis to attain. We want to demonstrate that you can wear a tailored suit and feel good in it."

Judicious buying in terms of color coordination can provide several options for a relatively modest outfit.

For instance, a light-colored jacket with one pair of matching pants, one pair of dark pants and a patterned vest incorporating both the light and dark colors can just about keep a man going for the whole summer.

It's largely a given that as the Israeli male moves into the 21st century, he will look a whole lot better than his forebears.



Bridge 'Chess thinking' at the bridge table

By MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

South deals
North-South vulnerable

North
♠ 98
♥ J953
♦ AK5
♣ AJ86

West (Rosenberg)
♠ AJ73
♥ K10742
♦ Q72
♣ 5

East
♠ 5
♥ Q6
♦ 109843
♣ 109432

South
♠ KQ10642
♥ A8
♦ J6
♣ KQ7

South	West	North	East
1♠	pass	2♠	pass
3♠	pass	4♠	pass
4♠	(all pass)		

Michael Rosenberg of New York, the winner of the 1998 World Par Contest held in Lille, France, has written a four-part series on his experiences for *Bridge Today Magazine* (which I publish). Par contests require chess-like strategy — the contestant must play all 13 tricks in his head to envision the end-position. You are given the declarer's hand and dummy and assured that the East-West cards are set up so that if you play the hand technically perfectly, you'll make the contract.

As a young man in London, Rosenberg was a chess enthusiast and rubber bridge player. He sat West on today's deal from a game at Stefan's Club.

See if you can figure out his winning opening lead, based on "chess" thinking.

The bidding was standard Acol, where South had to jump on his second turn to force. Modern tournament players would rebid only two spades with the South cards, because the two-spade rebid is forcing in most systems. The four-diamond bid by North was a cue-bid, a slam try in spades, which South rejected. Now let's examine West's opening lead.

Most players would lead their singleton: the five of clubs. Rosenberg considered this lead and imagined the scenario. Declarer would win and play a trump to the queen and ace. West must then find an entry to his partner's hand. The best he could hope for from partner would be a queen, perhaps the queen of hearts. To reach East in hearts, West must shift to the king of hearts.

If declarer wins the ace and drives out the jack of spades, West can play another heart to East and get his club ruff. But declarer will see the club ruff coming and counter by allowing the king of hearts to win the trick.

On this reasoning, Rosenberg found the winning opening lead. He led the king of hearts before the club! The layout was exactly as he imagined. The unsuspecting declarer won the opening lead, played a diamond to the king and a spade to his queen. Rosenberg won the ace and now shifted to a club.

Declarer won and played a spade to West's jack. But Rosenberg triumphantly led the deuce of hearts to East, who returned a club for the setting trick.

Matthew Granovetter can be reached by e-mail at matt@bridgetoday.com

Chess Ivan the genial

By NUGEL SHORT

IN MAY 1987, at the invitation of Her Majesty's Ambassador to Bosnia, Charles Crawford, I found myself, along with Jon Spielman, in Sarajevo giving a couple of charity simultaneous exhibitions.

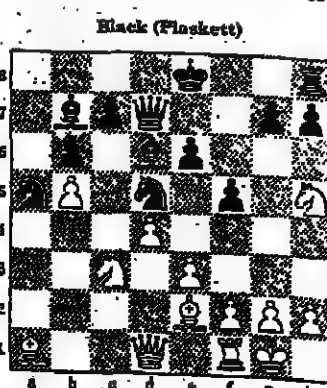
On the free day, the ruddy-faced father of the Bosnian grandmaster Ivan Sokolov kindly proposed to take me round the poignantly beautiful capital, an offer I accepted gladly. We set off early with Ivan, who had briefly returned to his native city to visit his parents, acting as interpreter. We toured the former battlefronts, the cemeteries, the pockmarked buildings, the devastated Olympic ice-skating rink and some other sites before Mr Sokolov senior suggested we stop for a drink. I glanced at my watch: it was not even 17 o'clock in the morning.

"I'm quite all right at the moment, thank you," I replied naively. This was duly relayed to Mr Sokolov, and a conversation ensued in Serbo-Croat for a short while before Ivan turned to me and said, "My father says he doesn't care what you want, he's stopping for a drink." My recollections of the rest of the day are a little bit hazy but, if I am not mistaken, that was the end of the sightseeing.

It was a joy to see Ivan, a genial soul who shares his father's fondness for the occasional tipple, winning the traditional Hastings tournament this year with an impressive score of 7/9, two points, no less, ahead of the rest of the field. He is an original character who remained living on separate continents to his wife after their marriage in 1985. He is also a gifted, if somewhat erratic, player who can add this triumph to an exceptional performance in the Dutch Championship (he has been resident in Holland for several years) and a strong showing in Sarajevo in 1988. Witness this uncompromising fight from the final round with another wild and creative spirit, Mr Harold James Plaskett.

White: Ivan Sokolov
Black: James Plaskett
Hastings, Jan 7, 1999
1. d4 e6 2. c4 b6. An English speciality which invites the (probably advantageous) occupation of the centre with 3. e4 3. Ne3. Ducking the challenge, 3... Bb4 4. e3 Bb7 4... Bxc3+ looks like the right move, doubling the pawns while the opportunity exists. 5. Nge2 f5 6. e3 Bb6. An artificial

looking retreat, which is a direct consequence of the previous inaccuracy, 7. b4 Nf6 8. c3 Bc7 9. Nf4 10. Bb2 a6 11. a4 Rxa1 12. Bxa1 Ne6! Plaskett understands that it would be a mistake to allow White to consolidate his space advantage. 13. b5 Nxd5 14. exd5 Exceedingly aggressive. 14... Bc8 15. exd7+ Qxd7 16. Bb2 Bb6 17. Nf5. Aiming for a tactical blow on the g7 square. 17... Nf5 18. e4 Bb7. (See diagram) 19. e4! A brave decision. White intends to energeise his semi-dormant cleric on e4 at the cost of a pawn. 19... fxe4. Acquiescing to an inferior position. For better or worse it was better to plunge headlong into the complications with, for example, 19... Nxc3 20. Bxc3 A) or 20... Bxc4 21. d5 e5 22. Bf3 Bxd5 23. Nxc7+ (23. Qxd5 Bc5+ 24. Qxd5 Bxc3 25. Bxa5 is less impressive.) 23... Qxg7 24. Qxd5. With two bishops and light square control White has superb compensation. 24... Bf3 25. e5 e5 26. Bf3 Bf3 27. b6 and White obtains the very nasty threat of Qe4+ although resistance is by no means at an end. 28. Nxc4 e5 21. Bg4 Qxb5? It was essential to try to cover the vulnerable e5 square, the linchpin of the Black position, with something like 21... b6 bringing a rook to e8 and a bishop to c8 if necessary. Perhaps, he was concerned about a knight sacrifice on c5,



White (Sokolov) to play his 19th move

but at least that would entail a considerable degree of risk for White. 22. Bxe6+ Kh8 23. Re1 23. Qg4?? Qxf1+ 24. Kxf1 Nc3+ is the sort of cheap trick that one might hope for against a lesser player. 23... Bb4 24. Qg4 g6 25. Qg5! The king is simply too denuded to be saved. 25... Bxe1 26. Qe5+ Rf6 27. Nxf6 Ne4 28. Qxe1. Oh dear. 28... gxf5 29. Bg7. Black resigns. After 29... Qb4 mate follows swiftly. 30. Qb4 Kg7 31. Nxf5+ Kh6 32. Qe6+ Kxh5 33. g4+ Kg5 34. h4+ Kxh4 35. Qb6.

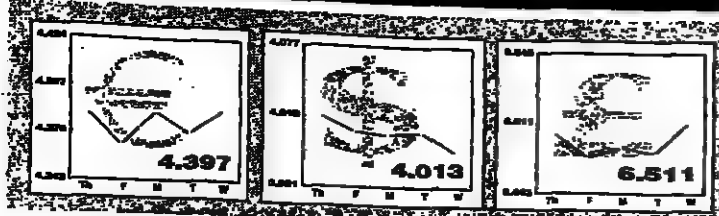
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Thursday,
March 11, 1999

The Jerusalem Post

Today's shekel



In brief

Elron rejects chief scientist's charges

Elron Electronic Industries yesterday reacted to accusations it has misled the chief scientist, saying the company's actions were faultless. Industry and Trade Ministry chief scientist Orna Berry said earlier this week she is mulling ways to block the deal between Elron and entrepreneur Motti Zisser for the sale of Elbit Medical Imaging. Berry said that the company would be requested either to return the state funding it received for R&D projects or make a commitment to continue investing in further developing its technology. In a statement Elron said that, based upon legal opinion, it is not required to get the approval of the chief scientist for the deal.

Dan Gerstenfeld

US firm buys Oshap Technologies in \$210 million share-swap deal

By JERRY BLACKBURN

SunGard Data Systems of the US has purchased Herzliya-based software group Oshap Technologies in a share-swap deal worth an estimated \$210 million, it was announced yesterday.

SunGard, a specialist in computer service and application software with sales of \$1.16 billion in 1998, paid \$15.50 per Oshap share, a premium of nearly 50 percent on the company's traded figure of \$10.50 per share.

SunGard has also offered to acquire the minority interests in Oshap's two principal holdings, Mint Technologies (98% owned by Oshap) and Decalog NV (77% owned by Oshap).

As part of the deal, SunGard will acquire control of Oshap's 1.7m. shares (18.4%) in Tecnomatix Technologies, making it a significant investor in the company, which provides

computer-aided production engineering tools. Tecnomatix, which is traded on NASDAQ, was founded by the present chairman of the board, Shlomo Dovrat, who is also president and CEO of Oshap, and the son of veteran financier Aaron Dovrat of the recently split Dovrat-Shrem investment house.

In 1997 Oshap saw revenues of \$19.4m, which includes the sales of all its subsidiaries. Results for 1998 have yet to be released.

SunGard's greatest interest in this deal revolves around Mint and Decalog, both of which are undergoing rapid growth and complement the US company's business.

Mint, which sells to top-tier commercial banks, brokerages, and regulatory bodies, provides software solutions for enterprise application integration. Its products, which include Mint Message Broker, Rule Manager, and Knowledge Manager, help financial institutions with information flow.

The company's business partners include BEA Systems, IBM, Sun, Hewlett Packard, Compaq, Microsoft, and Nippon Steel.

Boston-based Decalog provides portfolio management and decision-support applications for asset managers. It has a strong client base in Europe, which will complement the sale of SunGard's products in the US and Britain.

"Mint will further enhance SunGard's position as a technology provider to the financial services industry," said James L. Mann, chairman and CEO of SunGard. "Enterprise application integration is the major technology issue facing financial institutions today as mergers, rationalizations and globalization continue to require rapid change in the way businesses process information."

"Decalog will strengthen SunGard's leadership position in software solutions for asset management."

Dovrat said that SunGard's global market presence, operational experience, and significant resources will help promote future growth at Mint and Decalog.

"After exploring various strategic alternatives over the last few months, we determined that the combination with SunGard represents by far the best value for our shareholders. The transaction will create significant shareholder value," he said.

Dovrat added that he will continue in his role as chairman of the board at Tecnomatix.

Because of restrictions, SunGard cannot initially sell its shares in Tecnomatix, which operates outside SunGard's area of interest.

Mann said that SunGard has no plans to increase its holding in the company, which two days ago announced a major deal with US software giant Parametric Technology Corporation, and intends to be nothing more than a supportive shareholder.

BNP in \$38b. hostile bid for newly merged SocGen-Paribas

By ROBERT MCLEOD

PARIS (Bloomberg) — Societe Generale SA and Paribas SA, which just last month agreed to merge, were forced yesterday to hire investment banks to help repel a \$38 billion hostile takeover bid from Banque Nationale de Paris SA.

France's No. 3 bank Tuesday night made a surprise offer to buy Societe Generale and Paribas — which announced a \$15 billion merger last month — through a share swap that would create the world's largest bank, with \$1 trillion of assets. Paribas retained Rothschild & Cie. and SocGen was to choose a banker by the end of the day yesterday, said two people familiar with the situation.

The hostile offer, the largest ever in European banking, and the first since Credito Italiano SpA's bid for Credito Romagnolo SpA in 1994, may spark a wave of consolidation in the French banking industry, which for years stagnated under government intervention and low profitability, say investors.

"This entire industry is going to be shaken up and reshuffled," said Michael Levy, a money manager at Bankers Trust Funds Management in New York.

BNP offered 15 of its shares for seven Societe Generale shares, a value of 165.87 euros per share, or a premium of 14 percent above Tuesday's closing share price. The bank is also offering 11 of its shares for eight Paribas shares. That value Paribas at 106.43 euros, 24% above its Tuesday close.

Rebuffed in attempts to buy a controlling stake of Credit Lyonnais SA and left out when SocGen and Paribas agreed to merge last month, the bid is make-or-break for BNP.

"BNP knows it would have missed out on getting Credit Lyonnais — it has to make an acquisition," said Alain Tchibozo, banking analyst at CPR Finances. He said BNP's move might even spark an offer for the Paris-based bank by a foreign institution such as ABN Amro NV or Deutsche Bank AG.

SocGen's acquisition of Paribas left BNP looking vulnerable. In response, BNP said it was willing to enter into a partnership with Credit Lyonnais, the French state-owned bank to be sold before July. Credit Lyonnais rejected the suggestion and instead sought out mutual bank Credit Agricole, France's largest, to be a core shareholder — a solution analysts think the state would favor. That left BNP alone again.

"Credit Lyonnais wasn't possible with the management in place and the government," said Baudouin Prot, BNP's managing



A customer withdraws money from a Banque Nationale de Paris ATM machine in Paris yesterday. France's third-largest bank's bid to buy competitors Paribas SA and Societe Generale SA caught the country's two leading banks off-guard. (AP)

director at a press conference yesterday. "This isn't a criticism, it's a reality. This is the beginning of a real restructuring."

A stand-alone BNP might not have been able to survive a bid from a foreign rival if it couldn't find another domestic solution, analysts said. Foreign banks have longed for access to the borrowers and savers in the world's fourth-biggest economy, but have found it closed to making any significant acquisitions.

BNP offered to keep all three banks' retail brand names and promised no mass firings of workers. BNP plans to keep Paribas' investment banking operations separate, while combining its own banking activities with those of Societe Generale.

While BNP's promises to keep jobs might appease French politicians and regulators, a reduction

in the workforce will be inevitable to meet the bank's forecasts to cut costs by 8%, or 1.27b. euros, by 2002. The bank says it expects 710m. in cost cuts from combining back office operations and 460m. from shared information technology.

The merger would create a bank with 4,700 branches, giving it an 18% share of the retail banking market. The bank has 120,000 employees, giving BNP the opportunity to cut costs because many of the three banks' businesses overlap.

Axa SA, which analysts and investors consider key to the operation, said its representative on BNP's board, Jacques Friedmann, voted in favor of the bid. Axa, which is the biggest shareholder in BNP and Paribas, had previously endorsed Societe Generale's bid for Paribas — indeed Paribas chair-

man Andre Levy-Lang called his Axa counterpart Claude Bebear the "grandfather" of the proposed merger.

"There is a strong industrial logic in the bid, which is in the best interests of BNP shareholders," said Christophe Duffaux, a spokesman for Axa, which owns about 7% in both BNP and Paribas.

The takeover would be the second biggest in banking after NationsBank Corp.'s \$42.8b. acquisition of BankAmerica Corp. last year. Olivetti, an Italian telecommunications and computer equipment company, has offered \$58b. to buy Telecom Italia in Europe's biggest ever hostile takeover bid.

Shares in all three banks were suspended on the Paris bourse. BNP shares fell 1 euro to 77.4, while Societe Generale lost 2.6 to 145.5. Paribas rose 0.15 to 53.2.

Study: IEC inefficiency costs NIS 1.8b. annually

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Inefficiency in the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC) results in an annual overall loss to the economy of NIS 1.85 billion, according to a study published this week by the Jerusalem-based Institute for Advanced Strategic and Political Studies.

The report quotes Prof. Daniel Tchimensky, who headed a committee to examine the electricity monopoly, as saying the state-owned company employs 3,000 more workers than necessary.

The main reason for the company's inefficiency is that most of its profits go toward paying excessive salaries, leading to a situation

whereby wages add up to some 24 percent of the company's revenues, according to Yossi Borochov, the report's author.

While the average cost per worker in Israel is \$2,938, the cost per average worker at the IEC is \$7,678, 160% higher than the regular monthly cost of an industrial worker (\$4,792).

The report further says that the high salaries are even less justified, given that clerks and semi-skilled workers comprise 73% of the company's labor force.

In addition, the company's pensioners receive extensive benefits. The report claims that a department head can advance to the position of section head and improve his bene-

fits while he is a pensioner.

According to the report, covering the company's pension liability is expected to cost taxpayers some \$167m. a year.

Moreover, company workers get free electricity at an estimated annual cost of at least \$8.5m.

The report also states that IEC workers are less efficient than their counterparts in similar electricity companies abroad. The IEC worker produces an average of 2.65m. kwh compared with 4.45 in Belgium, 3.98 in Holland, and 2.86 in Denmark.

A spokesman for the IEC said that the company had not yet received the report and therefore could not comment on it.

'98 hotel income up 5% to NIS 4.56b.

Jerusalem Post Staff

The hotel industry's overall revenues last year totaled NIS 4.56 billion, a 5 percent increase over the previous year after inflationary adjustments, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday.

The figures take into account income for non-accommodation

activities, including hosting events, renting sports facilities, and leasing commercial space, but exclude income from timesharing deals.

Some 44% of hotel revenues came from tourists using foreign currencies, thus continuing a decline trend from 1996's 51% and 1997's 48% levels. In absolute

terms this figure totaled \$524 million, some 3% less than the previous year.

In all, the number of tourist stays last year declined by 5% from 1997 to 7.7m.

The remainder of hotel revenues, some NIS 2.6b., came from Israeli guests, as well as tourists' payments for non-VAT-exempt services.

ISRAEL RAILWAYS

Tender No. PR/MC/01/99

For the Supply of Various Types of Monoblock Wheels

1. The Ports and Railways Authority — Israel Railways (hereinafter: "the IR"), in accordance with its obligations in regard to tendering procedures under the International Agreement on Government Procurement GATT, and according to the Israeli Tender Law, wishes to obtain bids for:

A long-term agreement, for the Supply of Nine (9) Types of Monoblock Wheels, as specified in the Technical Specifications of this Tender, for a period of three (3) years (hereinafter: the Works);

Plus an option for the supply of such wheels, for an additional period of three (3) years (hereinafter: the Option).

- Pre-requisites for Participation in the Tender**
 - The bidder must be the original manufacturer of wheels or a proven authorized representative appointed by the original manufacturer.
 - The manufacturer must comply fully, with all the requirements and terms of the Technical Specifications of the Tender.
 - The manufacturer must have proven experience in the past three (3) years at least, in the manufacture and supply of the Works, as required in this Tender.
 - The manufacturer must be certified for Quality Control system in accordance with the ISO 9001/9002 standard.
 - The manufacturer shall warrant year 2000 conformity regarding this Tender, all according to the terms specified in the tender documents.
 - The manufacturer must have resources and working procedures allowing the performance of the Works in compliance with the U.I.C. standards.
 - The manufacturer has ongoing design and manufacturing divisions and facilities.
 - To secure the validity of its proposal, the bidder shall submit a financial bank guarantee from a first class bank or financial institution, approved by the IR, to the order of the IR, for the amount of 100,000 USD, valid until August 25, 1999, as specified in the tender documents.

Failure to comply in full with the said requirement for financial guarantee will disqualify the bid.

The bidder is required to submit all documents and/or certificates necessary to prove his compliance with the Pre-requisites, including, if relevant, the documents proving the bidder's authorized representation of a manufacturer.

- The deadline for submitting bids is April 25, 1999 at 15:00 hours to Israel Railways, Tel Aviv Central Railway Station, Contracting Department, P.O.B. 18085, Tel Aviv 61180, Israel.
- The winning bidder will be required to commit himself to an Industrial Commercial Cooperation undertaking and, if applicable, an Offset Procurement, on the terms contained in this tender.
- The criteria for selection in this tender shall be: The commercial offer and the proposed time schedule for delivery.
- All documents submitted in this tender must be in English.
- The IR shall not be bound to accept the lowest-priced proposal and/or any other proposal whatsoever. In addition, the IR does not undertake herein any commitment whatsoever, to execute the acquisition of the Works and/or to enter into a contract with any of the bidders.
- The IR reserves the right to enter into an agreement according to this tender, with more than one of the bidders, and/or for part of the Work, all according to IR convenience and sole discretion.
- The IR reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to conduct negotiations on the final technical and commercial terms, with those bidders that shall be found suitable.
- For any additional information, please address in writing, Ms. Yael Tserruya, Adv., at the address given above, by no later than April 8, 1999, or by Tel. 972-3-6937558, Fax. 972-3-6937416.
- Tender documents are available upon payment (not refundable) of NIS 1170 including VAT, to the order of "Ports and Railways Authority — Israel Railways," at the address detailed above.
- IR tenders are published additionally on the Internet at www.israil.org.il. In case of discrepancy between the terms of the tender in this publication and in the Internet, the terms of this publication will prevail.

BVR wins \$10m. deal

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Givatayim-based BVR Systems yesterday announced that it had won a contract with its German partner BGT for the supply of Elud simulation systems to the Italian Air Force.

The company said that BGT will act as the prime contractor while BVR, which will act as subcontractor, will receive some \$10 million.

Earlier this week BVR won another \$23m. contract from an unspecified NATO member.

BVR systems was established as a result of the spin-off of all defense-related business from BVR Technologies, which develops training and computer-based simulation systems.

The company offers solutions to the simulation, training, and debriefing needs of modern air, sea, and ground forces.

Banks' capital adequacy floor raised to 9%

The Bank of Israel yesterday raised commercial banks' capital adequacy requirements to 9 percent from 8 percent, effective immediately.

"This increase in minimum capital is needed in light of increased banking and financial risk... against the background of the possible impact of volatile world financial markets, including foreign currency markets," the central bank said in a statement.

It quoted Supervisor of Banks Yitzhak Tal as saying the banking system is "absolutely stable" but that banks are vulnerable to global volatility because of their foreign currency lending.

The central bank said in January forex lending by Israeli banks reached a record high of 38.3 percent of total lending at the end of 1998, or \$29.8 billion.

The borrowing remains a source of concern because many borrowers are not adequately hedged.

Banking sources said that when the central bank first announced plans to raise capital adequacy requirements last month, the move was aimed principally at Bank Hapoalim, whose capital adequacy ratio fell to 8.4% after it made a special one-time dividend of NIS 1b. in the third quarter.

The payout was made after the bank's acquisition by the Tel Aviv Group. Analysts said the increase in capital adequacy was apparently made to discourage further payouts by Hapoalim or other privatized banks.

Elsewhere in the banking industry only Bank Leumi and First International Bank would have met the new capital adequacy floors at the end of the third quarter, the last period for which banks have reported.

Israel Discount Bank's ratio was 8.2% and Mizrahi Bank's was 8.3%.

(Reuters)

PRIME 77

Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date:	9.3.99
Purchase Price:	124.38
Redemption Price:	122.79

TARGET 77

Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents

Date:	9.3.99
Purchase Price:	131.21
Redemption Price:	129.37

[illegible][illegible]

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (10.3.99)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
Currency basket	4.2832	4.3523	—	—	4.3108
U.S. dollar	3.9878	4.0522	3.92	4.10	4.0130
EU euro	4.3701	4.4408	—	—	4.3970
German mark	2.2344	2.2705	2.21	2.30	2.2482
Pound sterling	6.4731	6.5776	6.37	6.68	6.5111
French franc	0.6882	0.6770	0.66	0.69	0.6703
Japanese yen (100)	3.3073	3.3607	3.26	3.40	3.3429
Dutch florin	1.9830	2.0150	1.96	2.04	1.9933
Swiss franc	2.7299	2.7740	2.69	2.81	2.7483
Swedish krona	0.4903	0.4983	0.48	0.51	0.4942
Norwegian krone	0.5114	0.5197	0.50	0.53	0.5147
Danish krone	0.5879	0.5974	0.58	0.61	0.5917
Finnish mark	0.7350	0.7489	0.72	0.76	0.7395
Canadian dollar	2.6349	2.6774	2.59	2.71	2.6487
Australian dollar	2.5423	2.5834	2.50	2.61	2.5569
S. African rand	0.6489	0.6574	0.58	0.66	0.6509
Belgian franc (10)	1.0833	1.1008	1.07	1.11	1.0900
Austrian sch. (10)	3.1759	3.2272	3.13	3.27	3.1955
Italian lira (1000)	2.2570	2.2935	2.23	2.32	2.2709
Jordanian dinar	5.6009	5.6913	5.36	5.85	5.6382
Egyptian pound	—	—	1.14	1.22	1.1751
Irish punt	5.5489	5.6384	5.47	5.72	5.5833
Spanish peseta (100)	2.6264	2.6688	2.59	2.70	2.6427

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

Spacies Inc.	\$2.08	3.64	Zachres Group Plc	2488.0	-0.83
State Street Corp.	\$4.13	4.02			
Storage Technology Corp.	\$3.35	3.07			
Summit Bancorp.	\$8.28	7.45			
Sun Microsystems Inc.	110.68	8.6			
Sunbeam Corporation	5.83	1.02			
Sundance Corp.	\$7.5	11.29			
Sunco Inc.	\$3.5	3.6			
Sunwest Inc.	\$2.67	2.84			
Supraper Inc.	\$2.34	1.05			
Symyx Corp.	77.38	3.4			
System Corp.	\$7.19	42.3			
TSC Corp.	8.13	8.13			
Tandy Corp.	\$7.0	5.0			
Telefonos Inc.	16.05	8.0			
Tele-Communications-TCI Corp	68.44	6.0			
Telefonos de Mexico	157.5	5.57			
Telefonos Inc.	65.75	6.65			
Temple-Invest Inc.	\$5.0	0.59			
Tenneco Inc.	28.13	0.85			
Tenneco Healthcare Corporation	19.15	1.93			
Tenneco Inc. (New)	30.25	0.85			
Tenneco Inc.	\$7.13	4.85			
		6.0			
		1.57			
		65.75			
		0.59			
		0.85			
		1.93			
		0.85			
		4.85			
		6.0			
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		0.85			
		4.85			
		6.0			
		1.57			
		65.75			
		0.59			
		0.85			

Acor Ltd.	\$84.0	1.54
Alcatel SA	136.7	0.86
Alcatel SA	115.8	-0.34
Compagnie de Saint Gobain	146.8	0.07
Euro Disney SGA	1.21	0.0
Industrie F.C.D.I.E.	39.2	-0.76
Moufins	10.61	0.0
Paribas	85.86	0.0
Pernod-Ricard	58.2	-0.83
PSA Peugeot Cabsot	189.6	-0.77

Buyer AG	33.1	0.81
Deutsche Credit AG	20.7	0.0
Deutsche Lufthansa AG	18.88	-0.95
Mannesmann AG	117.85	0.83
Mittelstand AG	16.75	-1.11
Volkswagen AG	54.40	-0.34

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Peterson Inc.	79.86	0.21		
Drumey (White)	34.50	0.0		
Thermo Electron Corp.	14.08	0.0		
Thomson & Bates	40.81	0.0		
Time Warner Inc.	58.73	0.0		
Times Mirror Company	55.41	0.0		
Timken Co.	17.48	1.07		
T.J. Companies Inc.	36.0	0.0		
Torstar Corp.	34.19	0.74		
Toysco Corp.	21.59	0.47		
Toy's R Us Inc.	77.38	0.0		
Transgraph Corp.	42.08	0.0		
Israeli Shafat Plastics	Cd	4,311	-0.03	
Glaxo-Schering		3,869	0.11	
Glaxo-NC		0.184	0.407	
Glaxo-USA		0.005	0.005	
French Franc Spot		5.835	0.025	
Japanese Yen Spot		119.775	1.177	
Swiss Franc Spot		1.659	0.0	
Canadian Dollar Spot		1.582	-0.243	
Italian Lira Spot		1788.999	0.625	
Japanese Yen Spot		2,705	0.0	

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

TYW Inc.	-48.44	-1.06	Dow Jones Indx. Avg.	-3772.84	0.82
TYE Corp.	-74.08	-1.25	Dow Jones Trans.	-2559.56	-0.10
U.S. International Ltd.	-4.76	-1.07	Dow Jones Utilities Avg.	-296.83	1.23
U.S. Corp. Del.	-3.78	-1.07	Dow Jones Comp. Avg.	-2987.73	0.63
U.S. Home Corp.	-33.63	0.0	NYSE Industrials Index	-752.28	0.58
U.S. Bancorp.	-34.73	0.54	NYSE 100 Index	-487.58	0.58
UAL Corp.	-34.5	-1.59	NYSE Composite Index	-806.48	0.39
Unimarc Diamond Shamrock Corp.	30.18	0.83	S&P 100 Index	-544.40	0.54
Unicom Corporation	-35.44	-0.87	S&P 500 Index	-1288.94	0.58
Unilever N.V.	-73.3	-0.36			

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Union Pacific Corp.	50.5	0.78		
Union Pacific Resources Group	39.4	0.81		
Union Payco Inc.	1.9	1.79		
Unicom Corporation	21.13	-0.8		
United Healthcare Corp.	59.19			
United Technologies Corp.	105.81	-0.25		
Unisys Corp.	59.88	7.13		
Univ. of Illinois	47.5	4.11		
US Airways Group Inc.	50.31	-0.46		
US West Inc.	35.75	0.5		
USG Corp.	47.88	3.67		
USI Inc.	28.5	4.44		
USX Corp.	28.5	0.66		
Utah Valley Community Coll.	1.9	1.79		
Utah Valley Univ.	1.9	1.79		
Utah Valley Univ. of Health Sciences	1.9	1.79		
Utah Valley Univ. of Management & Health Sciences	1.9	1.79		
Utah Valley Univ. of Science & Arts	1.9	1.79		
Utah Valley Univ. of the Pacific	1.9	1.79		
Utah Valley Univ. of the South	1.9	1.79		
Utah Valley Univ. of the West	1.9	1.79		
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POLYMER LETTERS EDITION

VF Corporation	46.58	1.7	British Pound Spot	1.826	0.583
Viacom Inc.	99.0	0.35	Bu Currency Bids	182.463	
Viacom Inc.	99.04	0.42	German Mark Spot	1.787	0.818
Vital Pharmaceuticals Inc.	1.19	0.7	Japan Yen Spot	169.45	
Vishay Instrumentation Inc.	13.23		Swiss Franc Spot	1.459	0.500
Vision Materials Co.	140.0	0.87	Sri Lankan Ft Cbr	89.200	
Vishnuchand Corp.	87.81	0.67	Japanese Yen Spot	119.775	1.177
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	89.89	0.33	Jan Yen Cur Fut Cbr Jun99	84.540	0.965

US Currency Fut	Mar 90	83.550	-0.304
Australian Dollar Spot		0.637	0.031
AS Curn Fut 90	Jun 90	83.550	

Wells Fargo Bank	-49.44	-0.05	French Franc Spot	5.950	0.025
Wells Fargo Management Inc.	-49.44	-0.05	Italian Lira Spot	1768.829	0.005
Wetters-Johnson Company	-24.63	1.89	Italian Lira Spot	1768.829	0.005
Wells, Marlett Inc.	-36.84	0.51	Dutch Guilder Spot	2.013	0.025
Wells Fargo Company	38.69	1.86	Australian Shilling Spot	12.571	0.010
Wentz's International Inc.	-36.84	0.51	U.S.-Mex. Rand Spot	4.143	0.044
Westpac Corp.	-21.81	0.56	U.S.-Mex. 2-Month	1.088	0.001
Westvaco Corp.	55.75	3.24			
Whitpool Corp.	45.84	-0.29			
Whitman Corp.	16.36	-0.68			

Coffee 'C' Future Mar99	105.0	.1
Wheat Future(Cbt) Mar99.....	255.0	3.72

Wingway (WIK) JH Co.	589.25	-2.25	Soybean Future	Mar99	470.0	1.05
Xerox Corp.	56.0	1.24	Orange Juice Fut	May98	83.6	1.83
Yahoo Inc.	173.56	3.74	Crude Oil Futr	Apr99	14.57	5.92
Yellow Corporation	18.44	-1.34	U.S. Long Bond(Col)	Mar99	121.41	-1.15
			S&P 500 Future	Mar99	1287.0	.56

LONDON COMMODITIES

Allied Domestic Inc.	309.3	3.59	Cocoa No. 7 (L) Mar99	849.	-1.2
Allied Zunch Plc	507.5	0.60	Coffee Robusta 5 May99	1731.	0.6
Bardays Plc	1814.0	2.83	White Sugar (L) May99	211.	2.1
British American Tobacco Plc	548.5	-1.44	Brent Crude Fair Apr99	12.5	7.8
British Telecom Plc	1051.0	-1.12			

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

CGI Plc	927.0	0.96	General Electric	29.2	0.01
Diageo Plc	721.5	-0.41			
General Electric Company Plc	568.0	0.98			
Glass Wallcome Plc	1998.0	0.1			
Hallmark Plc	759.5	-0.85			

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES		
Gold 100 Oz Fut Feb89	296.2	0.27

Platinum Future	Apr99	389.0	-1.81
Palladium Future	Mar99	345.0	-0.17
Copper Future	Mar99	75.5	0.00

Company	Price	Change	Volume
Lydts TSB Group Plc	540.0	+2.5	1,000
Marshall & Swift	2,810	+1.0	1,000
Mercuria Plc	591.75	+0.71	1,000
National Westminster Bank Plc	1413.0	+2.8	1,000
Prudential Corporation Plc	414.0	+0.91	1,000
Shell International Plc	27.35	+0.02	1,000
Reid Group Plc	397.5	+7.2	1,000
Sainsbury (UK) Plc	245.0	-1.78	1,000
Shell Transport & Trading Co.	363.0	+1.39	1,000
Suez International Ltd.	4450.0	0.0	1,000
Telecom Italia	811.5	+0.05	1,000

Commodity	Price	Change	Volume
Copper Future	1.08	+0.02	1,000
Gold Future	378.0	+0.02	1,000
Oil Future	22.54	+0.02	1,000

LONDON METAL FIXES		
Gold Price	Lo	291.5 -0.14
Gold Price	Hi	291.8 +0.02
Silver	Lo	5.24 -1.81

(Source: Bloomberg)

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Thursday, March 11
EMERGENCY
PHARMACIES
 Jerusalem: Armona, 9 Leib Yaffe,
 674-1901; Belsam, Salah e-Din,
 677-2315; Shafat, Shafat Road,
 841-0108; Der Aldawa, Herod's
 Gate, 628-2058.
 Tel Aviv: Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn
 Gvirol, 546-2040; Superpharm,
 Gimmel, 1 Ahimel, Ramat
 Aviv Gimmel, 841-7117.
 Ra'anana-Kfar Sava: Hyperpharm,
 Hatzumei mai, Kfar Sava, 743-0692.

Netanyah: Magen, 13 Weizmann, Box-
2985.

Hamifratz, 53 Hahistadrut, 841-6437.
Krayot area: Super Pharm Krayot, 44
Hapalmah, Krayot Bialik, 877-8320.
Herzliya: New Pharm, Beit Merkazin, 6
Masaki (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya
Pituah, 954-8903. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Upper Nazareth: New Pharm, Lev Ha'e
Mail, 657-0468. Open 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.

DUTY HOSPITALS
Jerusalem: Blour Holim (Internal, pedi-
atrics); Hadassah Ein Kerem (Surgery,
orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT);

Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana
Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv

POLICE 100
FIRE 102
FIRST AID 101

Magen David Adom
In emergencies dial 101 in most parts of
the country; in addition:
Ashdod* 8551333 Kfar Sava*
9902222
Ashkelon 8551332 Nahariya*
9912333

604444 Petah

Help line for English-speakers – Confidential hotline counseling and referrals for all ages, all problems.

Lev Center for Crisis
Counseling. (02) 654-1111, 1-

Emergency - Emotional First Aid -
03-546-1111
03-546-0739
03-556-8661/2
03-546-2222 (Arabic)
03-546-0740
03-546-5119
03-546-8770 (Arabic)

WHERE TO GO

555: Hadara 06-634-6789;
Zarath (Arabic): 06-645-
222).

**Crisis Center for Religious
Women** 02-855-5744/5. 24-
hour service, confidentiality
guaranteed.

**Go hotlines for battered
women** 02-651-4111, 03-548-1133, 07-
6310, 09-855-0506.

Hope Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel
523-4819, 544-8191 (men),
Jerusalem 625-5558, Haifa 853-0533.

**Massachusetts Medical
Organization - Israel Cancer
Foundation support service 02 824**

Flight arrivals – for information in English 03-972-3344.

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Watch hundreds of monkeys frolicking in a jungle and forest-like atmosphere!
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25 min. drive from Tel Aviv and Jerusalem

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Relive King David's Jerusalem 3,000 years ago...
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Tel: 02-626-0280

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Tourist bus service to Amman and Cairo
MARHACH TRAVEL & TOURISM
139 Ibn Gabirol St., Tel Aviv
Tel: 03-604-1811 Fax: 03-604-2884

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Hand-made, low calorie, parve Belgian chocolates
(Also with Badatz Hashgacha)
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(across from Jaffa Gate), Jerusalem
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(We deliver)

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E-mail: regent@actcom.co.il
Tel: 03-5272705
Fax: 03-5272708

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Tel Aviv: 03-5370511
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KLING CAR
For the best & most reliable service
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Delivery & Airport service
Tel: 03-7406422, 03-7406423
88 Bnei Zion St., Ramat Hasharon

Where to stay in Israel

ARAD

HOTEL INBAR - 103 modern designed rooms. Offers restaurant, lobby bar, spa, treatment rooms, indoor heated swimming pool, banquet & conference rooms. "Gateway to the Desert" 20 mins from the Dead Sea. Tel: 07-9973303, Fax: 07-9973822

GALILEE

NES AMMIN Kibbutz Hotel - This uniquely European village in the Galilee, offers Hotel, Hotel and apartment situated in beautiful botanical gardens. Delicious kosher food. Book one of our "Classical weekend musical packages" Tel: 04-995 0098, Fax: 04-995 0098

GALILEE - UPPER

KIBBUTZ HOTEL Kfar Giladi - 180 air-conditioned rooms, all with shower, bath, telephone, radio, and TV, kosher cuisine, outdoor & indoor heated swimming pools, sport & health club. Tel: 06-690 0000, Fax: 06-690 0069

AIR-CONDITIONED ROOMS, near the sources of the Jordan, and the Golan Heights. Tel: 06-694 3012, Fax: 052-828 400. Tel: 06-694 1274, Fax: 052-825 84. Tel: 06-694 4767, Fax: 052-817 719

MAAYAN COUNTRY LODGE - 24 lovely air-conditioned units, kitchenette, TV, double rooms for families, lawns and barbecue stands. Discounts for many sites near by. Special prices for the low season. Kibbutz Maayan Baruch - Tel: 06-595 4700

GALILEE - WESTERN

NES AMMIN KIBBUTZ HOTEL - (near Akko) - A uniquely European experience. Situated in a botanical garden, varied accommodations. Quality value "packages" available - classical music weekends, family budget weekends, Pesach Packages 04-9950098

GOLAN HEIGHTS

MOTEL GOLSHI HAHERMON - Sagron Family Neve Ativ - 08-998 1531, 060-246 540. The closest place to the ski resort, with all conveniences, comfortable atmosphere and full Israeli breakfast. Special package deal during the ski season.

JERUSALEM

ADAR SUITE HOTEL - New luxurious suite hotel, located in the heart of Jerusalem. Each suite has its own balcony, satellite television, two telephone extensions, equipped kitchenette, Jacuzzi bathroom. Tel: 02-6263111 Fax: 02-6260791

ACROSS THE YERUSHALAYIM HOTEL - private holiday apartment large, luxurious, quiet, 2 bdrm, 2 bath, huge living room, 2 terraces, separate kitchen, fully equipped, 4/5 pers, short/medium term; 10 days. Tel/Fax: 072-5-553 0564

ALON HOLIDAY APARTMENTS - new 5 star studios, in the very center of Jerusalem, air conditioned, kitchenette, private telephone, top design, completely refurbished. Tel: 02-625-0002, Fax: 02-625-0008. E-mail: alon@on-iv.com

LEV YERUSHALAYIM HOTEL - centrally located on King George Street, suites available one or 2 bedrooms plus living room, kitchenette, dining area, sleeps up to six very competitive rates. Glatt Kosher restaurants health club sauna & Jacuzzi. Tel: 05-556 1851 or 071-1555, Fax: 02-556-4372, e-mail: kaplan@inter.net

MOUNT ZION HOTEL - next to Old City, family plan; Restaurants, Coffee shop, Bar, Health club; all large Chabad mts face Old City - WOW! Internet: www.mountainzion.co.il Tel: 02-558 9555, Fax: 02-573 1485, e-mail: hotel@mountzion.co.il

PIZZAT SHORESH - beautiful new apartment hotel. The perfect place to enjoy nature and visit Jerusalem. Two bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen, fully finished, A/C, TV, phone. Special deal for long stays. Tel: 02-5382226, Fax: 02-5340282, e-mail: info@shoresh.co.il

TIMES SQUARE RESIDENCE - Prestigious Talbier neighborhood, 19 Jabotinsky Street, near the major hotels, luxurious apartments, 2 and 5 rooms (up to 10 persons), fully equipped, kosher kitchens. Tel: 02-561-1236, Fax: 02-561-1235

RAMOT 2. PRIVATE - Pleasant, fully furnished 2-room apartment w/garden. (Linen provided). Country setting. Magnificent forest view. Convenient transportation. Affordable daily/weekly prices. Tel: 02-588 5873, e-mail: rosh@ramot.net

JORDAN VALLEY

APIKEI NOFESH KIBBUTZ APIKOM - Vacation apartments & rooms. Kosher cuisine. 3 minutes from the Kinneret. Special offer for November: Sun-Thurs: 95 NIS, Weekend: 120 NIS. Prices per person per room Tel: 06-6754180/1 Fax: 06-6754181

NETANYA

MIZPE YAM HOTEL - situated on the Mediterranean, 35 rooms all with bath, toilets, air-conditioned, telephone, TV, video & radio in every room, dining room, kosher, intimate bar, elevator, sun terrace on the roof, parking, family atmosphere. Tel/Fax: 08-582 5730

SDOT YAM - CAESAREA

KEF YAM - Mediterranean Tourism offers a dream vacation which includes: Holiday apartments, private beach, glass bottom boat, archaeology, tornado boat. Call for reservations: 06-638444/70, Fax: 06-638 2211, www.kef-yam.co.il

TEL AVIV

THE ALEXANDER all suites hotel - luxury, central, by the beach. 1 & 2 bdrms - fully equipped kitchens, parking, fitness room. Short and long stays. Daily restaurant - kosher. Tel: 03-5452222, Tel Aviv: 03-5452222, Fax: 03-5452245, e-mail: alexander@telaviv.co.il

LAGUR BAYR luxurious apartments in the center of Tel Aviv near Dizengoff Center. Studio apartments for 2-3 people including a kitchenette, air-conditioning & cable TV. 138 Dizengoff St., Tel Aviv Tel: 03-527 2598 Fax: 03-524 7033

Where to Eat

JERUSALEM

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MEET ISRAELIS

Dafoe chalks up 7th shutout for Bruins

BOSTON (AP) — Ray Bourque had a goal and an assist and Byron Dafoe made 19 saves for the Boston Bruins beat the Florida Panthers 2-0 on Tuesday.

The win gave the Bruins a two-point advantage over the New York Rangers in their fight for the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. They meet tomorrow in New York.

Dafoe's stops included a glove save on Bret Hedican from the slot at 4:14 of the third period and a blocker save from the left of the crease by Robert Svehla five minutes later. The shutout was the 14th of his career. Sean Burke stopped 39 shots for Florida, including 16 in the first period.

Avalanche 3, Capitals 2 (OT) — Sandis Ozolins scored 19 seconds into overtime as Colorado, winning for the second straight time without three of their top stars, notched a road win.

Maple Leafs 6, Lightning 1 — Sergei Berezin made his 200th NHL game a memorable one with two goals as Toronto won on home ice. Mats Sundin had a goal and two assists.

Islanders 2, Flyers 2 — Tommy Salo stopped 33 shots as host New York tied struggling Philadelphia. Salo's heroics extended Philadelphia's winless streak to eight games.

Devils 3, Penguins 2 — Petr Sýkora scored one goal and set up another as visiting New Jersey scored three times late in the first period and beat stumping Pittsburgh.

Martin Brodeur won his 30th game, becoming the sixth goalie in NHL history to have four consecutive 30-win seasons.

Flames 7, Blues 4 — Rene Corbet scored twice and had an assist as Calgary overcame a two-goal deficit to win on the road.

Kings 4, Red Wings 2 — Defensemen Rob Blake and

Doug Bodger scored first-period goals and Ian Laperriere got the game-winner in the second as Los Angeles ended a four-game losing streak with a home victory.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	36	21	8	80	194	163
Philadelphia	30	19	16	76	194	152
Pittsburgh	32	22	9	73	176	175
N.Y. Rangers	28	28	8	64	181	177
N.Y. Islanders	19	38	9	47	154	199

Northwest Division

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Ottawa	37	18	8	82	191	134
Edmonton	34	24	5	73	209	188
Calgary	29	22	13	71	170	143
San Jose	28	24	10	66	165	148
Vancouver	25	31	9	59	155	174

Southwest Division

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Colorado	29	23	13	71	168	158
Florida	23	24	17	63	165	172
Washington	27	32	5	59	169	171
Tampa Bay	15	44	5	35	137	239

Tuesday's games: Boston 2, Florida 0; Colorado 3, Washington 2; OT; Toronto 6, Tampa Bay 1; Philadelphia 2, N.Y. Islanders 2; N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 2; Calgary 7, St. Louis 4; Los Angeles 4, Detroit 2; San Jose 4, Phoenix 2.

Sharks 4, Coyotes 2 — Bryan Marchment, Owen Nolan and Mike Ricci scored third-period goals and Steve Shields had a quiet night in net, facing just 15 shots, as host San Jose defeated slumping Phoenix.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	32	27	6	70	193	167
St. Louis	26	27	10	62	177	167
Kansas City	22	34	6	50	151	208
Chicago	18	37	9	45	142	198

Northwest Division

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Colorado	33	24	8	74	180	141
Edmonton	25	29	10	60	178	168
Calgary	24	30	10	58	172	182
Vancouver	19	35	10	48	154	208

Pacific Division

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	
Dallas	40	12	10	90	181	125
Phoenix	31	23	10	72	159	153
Anaheim	30	25	9	69	172	154
San Jose	23	28	14	60	145	154
Los Angeles	24	36	5	53	149	174

Two more held over alleged floodlight sabotage

LONDON (Reuters) — Police investigating the alleged sabotaging of floodlights at top English soccer grounds have arrested two more men, the BBC said yesterday.

The men were being questioned in connection with blackouts during matches at the grounds of London clubs Crystal Palace and West Ham in 1997, BBC radio said.

Three other men were charged last month after damage was allegedly caused to lighting equipment at another London side, Charlton Athletic, in an incident linked by the premier league club to possible Asian betting coups.

Wai Yuen Liu from Hong Kong and Malaysians Chee Kew Ong and Eng Hwa Lim were charged with conspiracy to obtain a pecuniary advantage and conspiracy to cause criminal damage.

They were remanded in custody until April 2.

SPORTS

in brief

Derbyshire committee resigns en masse

LONDON (Reuters) — All 14 members of Derbyshire's committee resigned yesterday after a vote of no confidence by the English county's members.

Derbyshire said in a statement that the committee would act as caretakers until a new one was formed before the summer.

The resignations were prompted by a vote of no confidence passed by Derbyshire's members on Tuesday night and came after six months of division and dispute in the northern English club.

David Boon says he will retire at end of '99

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Former Australian Test batsman David Boon announced yesterday that he planned to retire from first-class cricket at the end of this year.

The stocky No. 3 batsman told a news conference in Hobart, Tasmania, that he was giving the game away to spend more time with his family.

Boon, 38, retired from Test cricket in 1996 after 107 appearances for Australia.

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- Bidders should have at least three years' proven experience in the public/institutional sector (in the years 1996, 1997 and 1998).
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Knesset Visits

There will be no tours of the Knesset building which will be closed to the public today, Thursday, March 11, 1999 (23 Adar 5759).

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SPORTS

The local scene

Women bowlers head for Cape Town

There is an unusual sabra flavor to the national women's bowls team which is preparing for the biennial Atlantic Rim games (March 20-29) in Cape Town, South Africa.

Three of the five-women squad, Pnina Gelbissier, Tami Kamzel and Rutie Gilor are Israeli-born and will join international Merle Swerdlow and Renee Kusman.

Swerdlow, current national singles champion, will be severely tested both by Mary Price of England, the winner in 1997, and former world champion, Ireland's Margaret Johnson. Gelbissier will team with Swerdlow in the pairs with Kusman skipping Kamzel and Gilor in the trips.

This time 15 countries are competing in the 'Mini-World bowls' and Israel's mission is to better their record of sixth place in '95 and ninth place in '97.

Caesarea golf

The monthly medal competition at Caesarea's Golf Club, played in ideal weather, led to encouraging results with Zev Abraham winning the A division with a two-under-par 71. Richard Fogelson was second with a 73 and Elad Hassen third at 76.

Mati Geri took the honors in the B division with a 70 while Haim Steinfeld and Kobi Rogovin ended on 72's but Steinfeld's better back nine gave him second place.

Shlomo Ferman, with the day's best score of a 67, captured the C division with Jules Cuburnek behind him on 69 and Nate Kausky on 72.

The quartet of Stanley Stern, Jeff Strubel, Sefi Halfon and George Host won Saturday's K-C two best ball stableford tournament with a stunning 20-under-par, 92 stableford points. On 91 were Cuburnek, Roz Brodie, Dan Katzenelenbogen and Muli Timor.

Charles Scheibel and Cuburnek, with 39 points each, had the day's best scores.

Ra'anana, Rishon in rugby season's first draw

After a tightly contested match, Ra'anana and Rishon LeZion's rugby teams could only manage a 10-10 score on

Saturday, the league's first draw in this season. Flyhalf Darryl Edelstein was the sole points scorer for Ra'anana, delivering a try which he converted and then adding a penalty for an excellent all-round performance. Eighth-man Sasha Volkov and fullback Uri Waldman scored the tries for Rishon.

In an unexpected result, Beersheba's team, drawing on their young blood, defeated ASA Tel Aviv 19-12. The scheduled third match was not held due to the Technion's students exam commitments.

In the under-18 league, ASA Tel Aviv demolished Tivon 33-7. This Saturday Rishon plays Hapoel Kibbutz Yitzreel, ASA Tel Aviv meets Kibbutz Tzora and the Technion hosts Hapoel Netanya.

Gilboa March sets off next week

This year's Gilboa March, the 33rd, will introduce casual walkers to the best walkers from around the world. On March 20, some 15,000 walkers are expected to criss-cross the magnificent Mt. Gilboa, soaking up the flowers and the exceptional views. Most will be walking the 11 kilometer distance but some will be participating in the international two-day route of 20km on both Friday and Saturday. For details, call 03 5176364.

Compiled by Heather Chait

Arizona banks hopes on youth

NCAA BASKETBALL

Championship tournament

TUCSON (AP) — Comparisons between the current Arizona Wildcats and the team that won the 1997 NCAA championship suggest this year's team has a lot to prove.

Three points and 3-pointers figure in the discussion.

Two years ago Arizona won the title as a No. 4 seed with Mike Bibby, Miles Simon and Michael Dickerson leading the way. This year's fourth seed (22-6, 13-5) in the Midwest region is led by Jason Terry and center A.J. Bramlett.

The 1997 team was expected to be a year away from serious contention with Bibby leading the offense as a freshman, two players with little experience, a junior-col-

lege transfer and a part-time player in the starting lineup.

This year's Wildcats have had to adjust with five freshmen in the eight-man rotation. Only one starter returned from last year's 30-5 squad.

The 1997 Arizona team was believed to be inferior to No. 1 Kansas, which Arizona defeated. This year's Wildcats aren't receiving much publicity with Michigan State, Kentucky, Utah and Kansas in their region.

"We want to give people a reason to start talking about us," Terry said.

Arizona can start the conversation rolling with a first-round victory over Oklahoma tomorrow in Milwaukee. The tournament begins tonight.

"The good thing is we are as ready right now as we could ever be," Arizona coach Lute Olson said. "What happens, happens."

Oklahoma (20-10) enjoys shooting 3-pointers, and opponents have shot well from long range against Arizona, hitting 36.4 percent.

"We have to get out on their 3-point shooters and make them penetrate," Jefferson said. "We are the worst 3-point shooting team defensively in the league. We need to communicate, be able to make switches and make them penetrate."

Arizona failed to defend its national championship a year ago after being routed 76-51 by Utah in the Elite Eight.

The three players who remain from the championship game victory over Kentucky are trying to ease some of the pressure.

"You have to have fun," Terry said. "We came out in '97 and we had a lot of fun. Last year it wasn't fun at all. We had a lot of pressure on us and were playing

uptight. I told the guys to loosen up and enjoy this."

Arizona, which finished second in the Pac-10 this year, had a 7-2 record in games decided by four points or less. Despite freshman mistakes, the Wildcats made the right decisions down the stretch.

Those same youngsters, especially Pac-10 freshman of the year Michael Wright, must continue to take a step forward.

"I think we are ready. We have come a long way," starting freshman forward Richard Jefferson said. "You have to be excited. There are 64 of the top teams in America involved. We are playing for the No. 1 title and one of the hardest titles to get in all of sports."

If Arizona beats Oklahoma, the Wildcats would play Sunday against the winner of tomorrow's North Carolina Charlotte-Rhode Island game.

NCAA Tournament

Today's games

SOUTH

- (In Indianapolis)
- No. 1 Auburn-16. Winthrop
- 8. Syracuse-9. Oklahoma State
- 5. UCLA-12. Detroit
- 4. Ohio State-13. Murray State
- (In Orlando)
- 6. Indiana-11. George Washington
- 3. St. John's-14. Seton Hall
- 7. Louisville-10. Creighton
- 2. Maryland-15. Valparaiso

WEST

- (In Denver)
- 1. Connecticut-16. Texas-San Antonio
- 8. Missouri-9. New Mexico
- 5. Iowa-12. Alabama-Birmingham
- 4. Arkansas-13. Siena
- (In Seattle)
- 6. Florida-11. Pennsylvania
- 3. North Carolina-14. Weber State
- 7. Minnesota-10. Gonzaga
- 2. Stanford-15. Alcorn State

Rodman, Shaq up Clippers' woes



LOS ANGELES (AP) — The winless Clippers are on the verge of earning an unwanted place in the NBA record book.

Shaqille O'Neal had 31 points and 12 rebounds, and Dennis Rodman had a season-high 20 rebounds as the

Lakers extended the Clippers' losing to 16 games — one shy of the league standard for losses at the start of a season — with a 103-99 victory on Tuesday.

The Clippers, who also lost 16 games at the beginning of the 1994-95 season, could tie the record set by the Miami Heat in the 1988-89 campaign if they lost last night's away game, also against the Lakers.

Their chances of winning can't be considered very good. The Lakers (14-6) are unbeaten in eight games since Del Harris was fired as coach two weeks ago, and 7-0 with Kurt Rambis as head coach and Rodman as one of his players.

Should the Lakers win, the Clippers could break Miami's record tonight at home against the Sacramento Kings in their third game in as many nights.

Hornets 105, Celtics 87
J.R. Reid led seven Charlotte players in double figures with 26 points and the host Hornets made a winner of new coach Paul Silas.

Silas, appointed the team's interim head coach one day earlier following the resignation of Dave Cowens, was making his first appearance Tuesday night as an NBA head coach in nearly 16 years.

By chance, his Charlotte debut came against the team with which he spent much of his 16-year playing career, helping the Celtics to NBA titles in 1974 and 1976.

Derrick Coleman, Charlotte's leading scorer and rebounder, sat out his second straight game to rest a sprained right foot.

He was joined on the bench by starting wing guard Bobby Phillips with a possible stress fracture in his left leg.

Antonio Walker had a season-high 32 points for the Celtics, who lost for the fourth time in five games.

Bucks 87, Knicks 86
Patrick Ewing lasted only 29 seconds before leaving with an Achilles' tendon injury, and the Knicks had their eighth-game home winning streak snapped.

Dell Curry hit a 3-pointer with 3.4 seconds left for Milwaukee. Latrell Sprewell, who left Curry wide open for the game-winner.



OFFENSIVE BEHAVIOR — Utah's Karl Malone outmaneuvers Cleveland's Shawn Kemp to grab an offensive rebound in first-quarter play. The Jazz won 88-75.

missed an open jumper at the buzzer that would have won it for New York.

Ewing, who missed 56 games and the first round of the playoffs last season with a broken wrist, left the court early in the first quarter grimacing in pain from a sore Achilles' tendon.

Ewing had an MRI performed on his left Achilles' tendon, which came back negative. His status is day-to-day.

T-Wolves 85, SuperSonics 84
Kevin Garnett scored 12 fourth-quarter points, including a one-handed putback dunk with 18.3 seconds left, as host Minnesota handed Seattle its fourth straight loss.

Garnett had 22 points and 16 rebounds, including a season-high eight on the offensive end. Joe Smith added 10 points and 11 rebounds.

Detlef Schrempf, playing in his 1,000th game, scored 18 points as a reserve for the Sonics, who hadn't lost four in a row since January 1992.

Bulls 103, Nets 87
Toni Kukoc scored 28 and Ron Harper missed just one shot in the first half on his way to a season-

high 25 points. All five host Chicago (5-13) starters finished in double figures in the matchup of East tailenders.

It was the Bulls' first 100-point game of the season, and it snapped a three-game losing streak.

Rockets 84, Nuggets 74
Hakeem Olajuwon had 20 points and Scottie Pippen scored 10 of his 17 in the fourth quarter as host Houston handed Denver its fifth straight loss. The Rockets have beaten the Nuggets eight straight times.

Antonio McDyess led Denver with 23 points and Danny Fortson had 15 points and 21 rebounds.

Jazz 88, Cavaliers 75
Karl Malone scored 21 points, and Adam Keefe added a season-high 15 as host Utah welcomed back coach Jerry Sloan, who returned to the bench after missing two games recovering from knee surgery.

The Jazz won their eighth of nine home games and for the 21st time in their last 22 home contests.

Suns 103, Mavericks 91
Cliff Robinson scored 11 of his 18 points in the fourth period, including two 3-pointers, in a game delayed 70 minutes because

of a slippery substance on Dallas's Reunion Arena floor.

It was the Suns' eighth consecutive victory over the Mavericks and 25th in the last 27 games.

Tom Gugliotta, Jason Kidd, George McClellan, Danny Manning and Luc Longley all scored in the double figures for the Suns.

Trail Blazers 103, Kings 98
Isaiah Rider scored 21 points and Brian Grant had 19 points and 11 rebounds as host Portland won its eighth straight game.

Arvydas Sabonis added 19 points for the Blazers, who extended their league-best record to 15-3.

Portland, which won for the 13th time in 14 games and improved to 9-0 at home, used scoring bursts at the beginning of the third and fourth quarters to come from behind against the Kings, the NBA's highest-scoring team at 99.8 points a game.

Warriors 92, Grizzlies 82
Donyell Marshall scored 20 points and Erick Dampier and Bimbo Coles had 17 apiece as Golden State won its sixth straight home game. Dampier matched a career-high with 18 rebounds.

Rebouts-Cleveland 87 (Kemp 8), Utah 52 (Jefferson 16, Malone 6), Seattle-Cleveland 18 (Knight 8), Utah 22 (Ewing, Malone 6), A-46,753 (19,911).

SACRAMENTO 30 25 15 22-98
Portland 28 18 31 25-103
SACRAMENTO (26) Williams 2-8 3-4 7, Weber 7-19 0-2 14, Dwyer 2-11 2-16, Abdul-Wahed 3-6 1-3 7, Williams 5-11 2-22 15, McSwain 2-4 0-0 2, Funderburk 7-8 4-8 18, Barry 3-5 2-6 6, Stokoe 3-8 0-0 8, James 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 38-57 15-27 98.

PORTLAND (103) Wallace 9-12 1-2 12, Grant 6-14 7-8 18, Sabonis 8-12 2-4 18, Rider 2-20 3-21, Stoudamire 5-19 1-2 14, O'Neal 0-0 0-0 2, Cato 1-4 2-4 2, Jackson 3-6 0-0 6, Anthony 2-0 0-0 5, Williams 0-1 0-0 0, Austin 1-0 0-0 2, Totals 41-88 16-22 103.

Fouled out-None, Rebounds-Sacramento 36 (Dwyer 15), Portland 31 (Grant 15), Assists-Sacramento 21 (Weber, McSwain 5), Portland 28 (Stoudamire 7), A-18,147 (18,538).

Vancouver 27 14 22 19-82
L.A. Clippers 22 18 21 81-99
VANCOUVER (82) Parks 6-10 0-0 2, Abner-Carm 10-21 10-25, Reeves 2-5 1-2 5, Lopez 3-7 0-0 8, Barry 2-4 0-0 8, Smith 2-4 0-0 7, Totals 31-64 14-22 82.

CLIPPER (99) Marshall 2-7 1-2 20, Mils 4-12 9, Dampier 7-15 5-8 17, Starke 5-10 2-4 13, Darr 4-8 0-0 8, Jackson 0-0 0-0 0, Coles 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 31-64 14-22 82.

Fouled out-None, Rebounds-Vancouver 48 (Parks 12), Golden State 22 (Dampier 16), Assists-Vancouver 20 (Barry 6), Golden State 18 (Darr 5), Totals 31-64 14-22 82.

L.A. Lakers 24 22 25 81-100
L.A. LAKERS (103) Bryant 4-7 8-10 16, Knight 4-12 5, O'Neal 10-20 11-18 31, Harper 3-7 1-2 7, Jones 3-10 0-0 16, Pugh 1-0 0-0 2, Fisher 4-5 0-0 8, Rodman 2-3 0-4 4, Campbell 3-7 6-9 11, Totals 31-64 14-22 82.

Fouled out-None, Rebounds-Vancouver 48 (Parks 12), Golden State 22 (Dampier 16), Assists-Vancouver 20 (Barry 6), Golden State 18 (Darr 5), Totals 31-64 14-22 82.

L.A. Lakers 24 22 25 81-100
L.A. LAKERS (103) Bryant 4-7 8-10 16, Knight 4-12 5, O'Neal 10-20 11-18 31, Harper 3-7 1-2 7, Jones 3-10 0-0 16, Pugh 1-0 0-0 2, Fisher 4-5 0-0 8, Rodman 2-3 0-4 4, Campbell 3-7 6-9 11, Totals 31-64 14-22 82.

Offerman picks up Bosox slack

SPRING TRAINING

Baseball

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP) — While Jose Offerman hasn't made the Boston Red Sox forget Mo Vaughn, he sure is driving in runs like the departed star.

Offerman, signed by the Red Sox after Vaughn left for Anaheim and the Angels' \$80 million, six-year offer, hit his third home run of the spring, going 3-for-4 Tuesday as Boston lost to the Montreal Expos 6-5 in 10 innings.

Offerman, who signed a \$26m, four-year contract, said it would be unfair to expect him to replace Vaughn's production.

"I don't have those kinds of numbers," said Offerman, who has never hit more than seven homers in a season during his seven years in the major leagues. "There's no reason for people to expect those kinds of numbers from me. I've just been making good contact."

Cubs 13 (ss), White Sox 2
A more consistent power source, Sammy Sosa, hit his second home run of the spring, a towering two-run, 460-foot drive to left-center that helped lead the Cubs over a White Sox split squad at Mesa, Arizona.

Braves 9, Mets 3 (ss)
Mark Wohlers, the Atlanta Braves' former closer who couldn't find the plate in the majors or minors last season, showed a glimpse of his old form by retiring three of four batters as he pitched a scoreless inning in a loss to a Mets split squad at Kissimmee, Florida.

Wohlers, entered in the third inning and gave up a single by Mike Piazza, then retired John Olerud and Craig Paquette on grounders and Robin Ventura on a flyout. Wohlers threw 11 fastballs and one slider.

"The only thing was I didn't get ahead," Wohlers said. "I got behind a couple of hitters and I was going to come back and throw some fastballs. I think Piazza's ball would have been a home run if the wind wasn't blowing in so hard. That's all right. A little luck now and then doesn't hurt."

Royals 5, Indians 3
At Haines City, Fla., Dave Swartzbaugh pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the ninth inning, and Kansas City took advantage of four errors. Jarret Wright was tagged for four runs and five hits in three innings.

Orioles 8, Cardinals 5
At Jupiter, Fla., backup infielder David Howard, who has 10 homers in 1,501 career at-bats during the regular season, hit two in his first two at-bats.

Yankees 5, Astros 4
At Kissimmee, Fla., Orlando "El Duque" Hernandez struck out five in four innings, and Jerome Walton's two-run single completed a four-run rally.

Phillies 11, Pirates 2
At Clearwater, Fla., Wendell Magee hit two homers and Scott Rolen was 3-for-3 with a homer.

Dodgers (ss) 5, Marlins 3
At Melbourne, Fla., Tripp Cramer hit a two-run homer and drove in three runs. Former-Marlins Devon White was 3-for-3.

Mariners 6, Giants 2
At Peoria, Ariz., Ken Griffey Jr. hit his second home run in three games and Darin Wilson drove in three runs. Seattle, which entered with a spring-bust 386 team batting average, has scored 42 runs on 79 hits in five games.

Rockies (ss) 12, Brewers 7
At Phoenix, Ariz., Bichette hit a two-run homer, Vinny Castilla added a solo shot and Larry Walker was 3-for-5 with two triples. All four of Colorado's pitchers gave up home runs. Jeremy Bonamichi and rookie Kevin Barber hit two-run homers, and Marquis Grissom and Geoff Jenkins hit solo shots.



IN HIS SHADOW — Lennox Lewis gets set for favorite Evander Holyfield in Saturday night's heavyweight title bout. (Reuters)

Holyfield reiterates 3rd-round KO boast

NEW YORK (AP) — Evander Holyfield has no second thoughts about his prediction for his heavyweight title fight with Lennox Lewis. "I'm still holding to the truth," he said. "The truth is I'm going to knock him out in the third round."

The 36-year-old IBF-WBA champion, who made the prediction a couple of weeks ago, is the 6-5 favorite to keep his title and add Lewis' WBC championship at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night.

"I'm not asking anybody here to believe that," Holyfield said of his boast after training Tuesday at the Church Street Gym near the tip of Manhattan. "I'm not asking anybody to write that, but you can write it now or write it later."

Holyfield said his prediction has nothing to do with Lewis, "except

that Lewis is going to be the opponent. Everybody who fights me has courage and heart and skills."

Lewis, a 33-year-old from Britain, called Holyfield's prediction "preposterous." Asked if he would make a prediction, Lewis, who worked out Tuesday afternoon at The Theater in the Garden complex, replied: "Yes, I'm predicting he will not knock me out in the third round."

When someone wondered why Holyfield seemed so supremely confident for such a major match against such a dangerous opponent, he replied: "I'm a born-again Christian and I believe in the word. Each and every time I'm supposed to be better. It would be wrong for me to be bad."

In his last fight, Holyfield went the 12-round distance in outpointing Vaughn Bean on September 19,

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	4	5	.444	—
Miami	13	5	.722	1/2
New York	10	8	.556	3/2
Philadelphia	10	8	.556	3/2
Pistons	7	9	.438	5/2
Washington	7	10	.412	6
New Jersey	3	14	.176	10

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	12	5	.706	—
Milwaukee	11	5	.688	1/2
Detroit	11	7	.611	1 1/2
Atlanta	9	8	.529	3
Toronto	9	9	.500	3 1/2
Cleveland	7	9	.438	4 1/2
Charlotte	6	10	.375	5 1/2
Charlotte	5	11	.313	6 1/2
Chicago	5	13	.278	7 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	14	4	.778	—
Minnesota	12	6	.667	2
Houston	11	8	.579	3 1/2
San Antonio	10	8	.556	4
Dallas	6	14	.300	9
Denver	5	14	.263	9 1/2
Vancouver	4	15	.211	10 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	15	3	.833	—
L.A. Lakers	14	6	.700	2
Phoenix	10	8	.556	5
Seattle	9	8	.529	5 1/2
Sacramento	10	10	.500	6 1/2
Golden State	8	10	.444	7
L.A. Clippers	0	16	.000	14

MILWAUKEE

16 27 21 23-87
New York 12-17 1-17, HSE 2-3 1-2, Moby 5-9 1-2 12, Harrison 3-4 2-4 8, Miller 0-0 0-0 0, Price 2-3 3-5 7, Bullard 0-0 0-0 0.

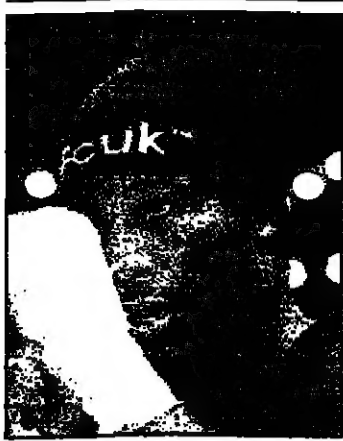
NEW YORK (87) Johnson 8-13 3-5 16, Thomas 0-0 0-0 0, Betsy 2-11 2-8 16, Rasmussen 5-6 1-5 12, Ward 3-

Devilish glee



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Going for broke



Page 18

Sports Editors: Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

ELEVATE

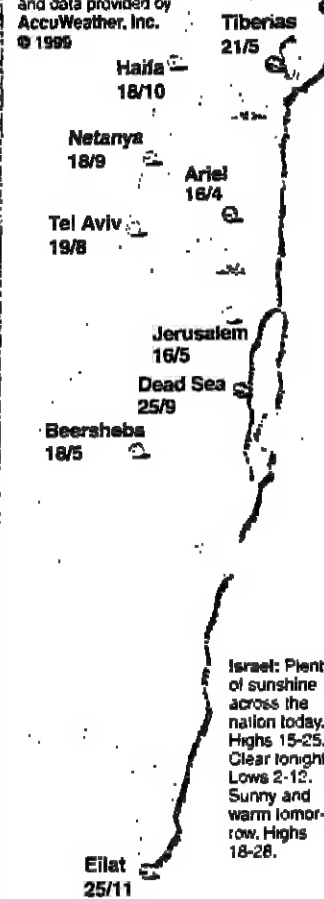
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ISRAEL

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ISRAEL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	Friday	High	Low
Haifa	17/2	17/2	17/2	17/2	17/2	17/2
Tel Aviv	19/8	19/8	19/8	19/8	19/8	19/8
Jerusalem	16/5	16/5	16/5	16/5	16/5	16/5
Beer Sheva	18/5	18/5	18/5	18/5	18/5	18/5

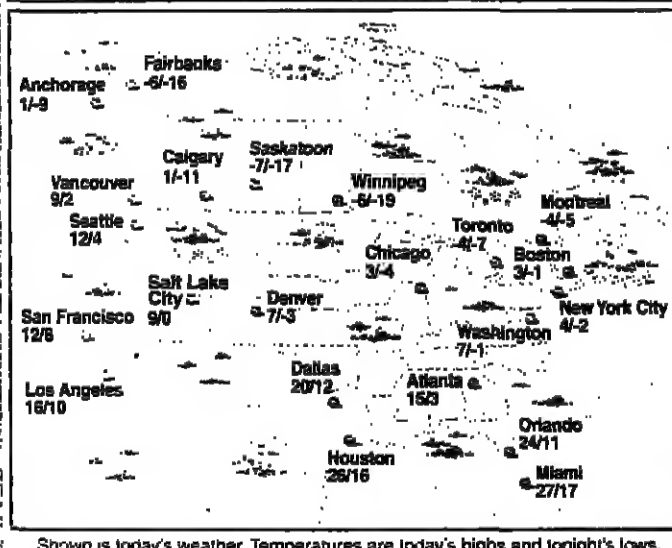
INTERNATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	High	Low	Friday	High	Low
Amsterdam	8/6	8/6	8/6	8/6	8/6	8/6
Beijing	5/1	5/1	5/1	5/1	5/1	5/1
Bombay	25/2	25/2	25/2	25/2	25/2	25/2
London	8/6	8/6	8/6	8/6	8/6	8/6
Los Angeles	16/1	16/1	16/1	16/1	16/1	16/1
Madrid	17/2	17/2	17/2	17/2	17/2	17/2
Moscow	2/3	2/3	2/3	2/3	2/3	2/3
New York	4/3	4/3	4/3	4/3	4/3	4/3
Paris	10/3	10/3	10/3	10/3	10/3	10/3
Prague	6/3	6/3	6/3	6/3	6/3	6/3
Rio de Janeiro	23/2	23/2	23/2	23/2	23/2	23/2
Rome	17/2	17/2	17/2	17/2	17/2	17/2
Sydney	36/5	36/5	36/5	36/5	36/5	36/5
Tokyo	9/4	9/4	9/4	9/4	9/4	9/4
Toronto	4/2	4/2	4/2	4/2	4/2	4/2
Vancouver	12/5	12/5	12/5	12/5	12/5	12/5
Washington	7/4	7/4	7/4	7/4	7/4	7/4
Zurich	10/3	10/3	10/3	10/3	10/3	10/3

MOON PHASES

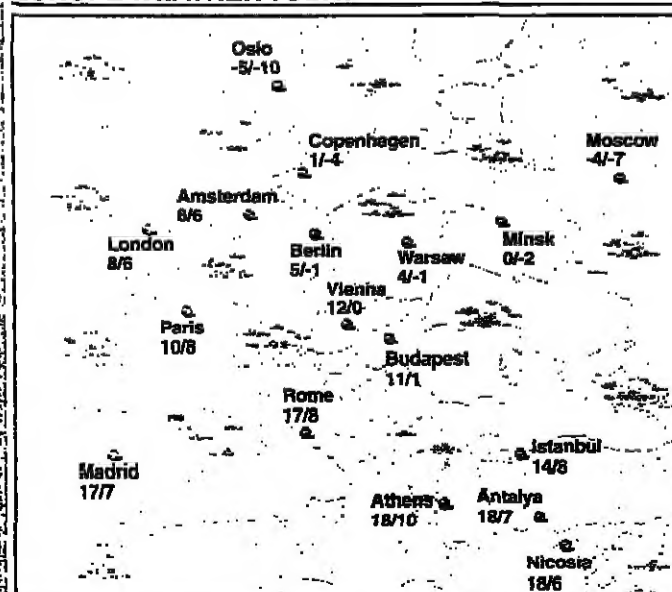
Phase	Mar 10	Mar 17	Mar 24	Apr 1
New				
First				
Full				
Last				

NORTH AMERICA WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

EUROPE WEATHER TODAY



Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

Ramat Hasharon women in European hoops final

By HEATHER CHAIT

Ramat Hasharon's women's basketball team burst into the headlines last night, six days after Maccabi Tel Aviv's men's side dropped off the European map for this season.

Ramat Hasharon has rewritten Israeli basketball history by qualifying for the final of the Ronchetti Cup, the first Israeli women's basketball team ever to reach a European final.

They beat Bordeaux 82-75 (49-32).

In the final they will face Italy's Prioli who beat Las Palmas from Spain in the other semi-final.

The finals will be held at Ramat Hasharon on March 24 with the away game postponed from March 31, Pesach eve, to April 1.

After Ramat Hasharon beat Bordeaux in the first game in France last week, local pundits were betting on a place in the final but few anticipated a performance with such finesse from the current league champions.

Outstanding players for Ramat Hasharon were Yugoslavian-born, Israeli national Mila Nikolic with 24 points and Americans Vicki Johnson (19) and Bonny Dovey (16).

Cheered on by a capacity crowd of 1,500, the team seized control from the start, leading 10-2 after three minutes and pushing the pressure on the French who seemed entirely taken aback.

As the second half began, the home team lapsed briefly, dropping to an 11-point aggregate difference in their favor, but under coach Orna Ostfeld's guidance, they managed to recapture the momentum, enjoying a 14-point advantage with three minutes to spare.

Ramat Hasharon's players let the visitors close the gap in the dying seconds of the game as the crowd and the champagne began to flow onto the court, but their place in Europe was already assured.



Chelsea's Italian midfielder Roberto Di Matteo (right) tries to tackle Manchester United's Ryan Giggs in the FA Cup quarter-final replay at Stamford Bridge last night. (Reuters)

Yorke's two goals send United to FA Cup semis

LONDON (Reuters) - Dwight Yorke struck twice to lead Manchester United to a 2-0 win over Chelsea last night and secure an FA Cup semi-final against holders Arsenal next month.

Yorke, who scored both goals when United beat Inter Milan 2-0 in the first leg of their European Cup quarter-final last Wednesday, scored one in each half of this quarter-final replay to take his tally for the season to 26.

The sides had battled to a 0-0 draw at Old Trafford on Sunday, but Yorke needed only four minutes to break the deadlock when he volleyed home from close range after Chelsea failed to clear a David Beckham free

kick. His second in the 59th minute came after fellow striker Andy Cole dispossessed French defender Marcel Desailly, leaving Yorke to strike a looping shot over Chelsea keeper Ed de Gea.

United knocked Chelsea out of the Cup at Stamford Bridge last season when they beat them 3-3 in a third round tie, and have now beaten them four times in the Cup in the last six seasons.

The win keeps United, top of the premier league, on course for their third Cup and League double of the 1990s.

But they face a severe test against Arsenal, who have double ambitions

of their own when they meet in the semi-final at Villa Park on April 11. Champions Arsenal are four points behind United in the league and lead Chelsea on goal difference.

Newcastle United, beaten 2-0 in last year's final by Arsenal, will play either Barnsley or Tottenham Hotspur in the other semi-final at Old Trafford on the same day.

The Barnsley-Tottenham quarter-final will be played on March 16 after being postponed because of heavy snow last Saturday.

In league action last night, Aston Villa, who has slipped from first to fifth in the standings since Christmas, lost to 2-1 to Derby despite the return of "keeper Mark

Bosnich and striker Stan Collymore. At the City Ground, Dietmar Hamann scored in the 73rd minute to give Newcastle a 2-1 win over Nottingham Forest.

Leeds created a four-point buffer between the top four teams and Aston Villa with a 2-0 win over Tottenham.

Alan Smith scored in the 42nd minute to edge the Rams ahead 1-0 at half-time and Australian international Harry Kewell clinched the result with a goal in the 68th minute.

At Ewood Park, Everton striker Ibrahim Bakayoko scored a goal in each half to give the Merseysiders a come-from-behind 2-1 win over Blackburn.

Israel show their class in 2-0 win over Romania

By OFER RONEN-ABELS

Goals by Ronen Harazi and Walid Badir saw Israel's national soccer team beat Romania 2-0 in a friendly international in Bucharest last night.

The result marked a repeat of Israel's impressive achievement from last year when they beat Romania 1-0, and increased the number of victories to three in 19 meetings between the two sides.

The result will act as a boost to the confidence of the Israeli ahead of the important European Championship qualifying group 5 match against Cyprus later this month.

As the Romanians included two strikers in their starting lineup, coach Shimon Scharf was forced to start with three center backs in his defense.

Th trio - Ran Ben-Shimon, Amir Shelah and Arik Benado were solid throughout the match, as was Maccabi Haifa's Alon Harazi who played on the right side of the defense, limiting Valencia's Adrian Ilie to only two chances on Nir Davidovich's goal.

Hapoel Haifa's Najwan Grayeb caused the Romanian defense most problems as his darting runs down the left wing created a number of chances for the visitors.

Israel took the lead in the 17th minute through Ronen Harazi who, scored his 23rd goal in international colors.

Alon Harazi's deep cross from the right was headed across goal by Tal Banin before Ronen Harazi's shot deflected off Liviu Ciobotariu to beat veteran "keeper Bogdan Stilea in goal.

West Ham's Eyal Berkovic dominated the play in midfield before he was taken off in the 35th minute due to an injury. He was replaced by Avi Tikva.

Avi Nimri failed to rise to the occasion, Maccabi Tel Aviv's talented midfielder was caught with the ball at



Ronen Harazi (No. 10) is congratulated by his teammates after scoring Israel's first goal in Bucharest last night. (Reuters)

his feet on too many occasions. Scharf must have been pleased with the result at half time as he did

n't make any changes to his formation after the interval. A minute before the hour mark

Gheorghe Craioveanu passed the ball to lie on the edge of the box. Ilie chested the ball down before releas-

ing a shot which flew inches wide of Davidovich's left post.

Five minutes later, Badir who was unmarked, squeezed past three defenders to head his debut goal for the national team as Stilea was caught out of position after a corner by Tikva.

Maccabi Haifa's Davidovich rewarded Scharf for keeping faith in him after his blunder against Lokomotiv Moscow.

Davidovich produced the save of the game after Viorel Moldovan tried to chip the Israeli keeper from the edge of the box in the 67th minute.

Idan Tal replaced Nimri and Nir Siliva replaced Ronen Harazi with eight minutes left on the clock. Seconds after coming on, both combined well as Siliva headed a flick which set Tal free but his attempt to round Stilea was thwarted by the Romanian.

"It was a great achievement to win in Bucharest again," Scharf said after the match.

Ronen Harazi said: "The Romanians had all their best players but we played a perfect match against a very good side."

"It is good to start confidently and that makes things easier for everybody, including me," said Davidovich.

In another matter, Clive Hart, who acts as Alon Harazi's representative in the local press regarding the immediate transfer of the Israeli defender to Premiership side Nottingham Forest.

"I can assure you that Forest didn't watch Harazi in Bucharest and will not be making a bid before the English deadline," Hart told The Jerusalem Post yesterday.

"However, there are several possibilities in the summer," he added.

Reports yesterday in the Hebrew had suggested that scouts would be watching the 28-year-old in Bucharest.

DiMaggio funeral set for today

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Joe DiMaggio's family wants his funeral to be as private as the man.

Only about 30 relatives and close friends will attend the service today at St. Peter and Paul Church, where DiMaggio married his first wife, Dorothy Arnold, in 1939.

"Joe insisted that his funeral be a private, religious service, and his family is intent on carrying out his wishes," said Morris Engelberg, DiMaggio's friend and attorney.

"George Steinbrenner asked to come. So did Reggie Jackson and a

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lot of other people he knew and liked, but the family had to say 'no,'" Engelberg said.

The church's twin steeples tower over the North Beach section of San Francisco where DiMaggio spent most of his childhood.

The funeral procession will drive into Beach Street in San Francisco's

Marina section where the DiMaggio family lived as it makes its way to the Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma, where DiMaggio will be buried.

DiMaggio's only son, Joe Jr., will be one of the pallbearers. The trio had been estranged and had not seen each other in two years.

Other pallbearers will be Roger Stein and James Hamra, the husbands of DiMaggio's two granddaughters; Joseph DiMaggio, son of the ballplayer's late brother, Mike; Joe Nacchio, a friend of DiMaggio's for 59 years, and Engelberg.

"There will be memorial services

in other parts of the country," Engelberg said. "Steinbrenner said there would be one at Yankee Stadium in the Memorial Park there. And, there are plans to erect a monument next to the one for Babe Ruth."

DiMaggio's body was flown from Miami to San Francisco late Monday on private jet. The Hall of Famer died Monday at age 84 at his home in Hollywood, Florida.

DiMaggio divorced Arnold in 1943. DiMaggio wed Marilyn Monroe in 1954 and they divorced later that year.

Under-18's Euro finals hopes fade

Israel's under-18 soccer team saw their hopes of reaching the European Championship finals effectively ended after they lost 2-0 to hosts Spain in Cadiz yesterday.

Israel will complete their four nations' qualifying tournament on Friday when they play England.

The English are favorites to top the group and qualify for the play-off against Norway after beating Andorra 8-0 yesterday.

On Sunday, Israel beat Andorra 2-0, while Spain and England drew 1-1.

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